



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paula Hubbs Cohen
July 15, 2003
623.412.9799
paula.cohen@cox.net

SPACE PLACE IS THE PLACE TO BE FOR OUR YOUNGEST ASTRONAUT WANNABE'S!

Launch your little ones into a great big space adventure at The Space Place at the Challenger Space Center!

The Space Place is a 2-hour interactive program for little ones with big imaginations! Designed for children ages 3 through 6, the program features age-appropriate activities designed to teach preschoolers about our planet and solar system. Interactive activities include learning how astronauts live and work in space, including eating and sleeping in very tight quarters. Our youngest astronaut wannabe's will make their very own space helmets, sing space songs, watch engaging videos, and create memory journals to take home. This big adventure for little children even includes a gentle simulated shuttle launch in our on-site simulator! Finally, we'll answer (in a nice way of course!) that question on the minds of everyone: so, just how DO astronauts go to the bathroom in space?

Group field trips to The Space Place are available weekdays by reservations only. The Space Place welcomes all pre-schools, kindergartens, mom and tot clubs, and neighborhood groups to make reservations for The Space Place program by calling 623.322.2001. The cost of the program is \$8.00 per child, which includes a framed photo remembrance of their visit to the Challenger Center. Class size is limited to 20 young astronauts. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

In addition to being open for group reservations throughout the week, The Space Place is open to the general public on the following dates: July 30, August 6, August 13, August 20, and August 27. Each session is from 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Reservations are also required for the general public sessions, and can be made by calling 623.322.2001.

The Challenger Space Center's mission is to inspire, excite, and educate people of all ages about the mysteries and wonders of space, science, and the universe in which we live. The Challenger Center, along with the recently announced McCall Museum of Art, is the only Smithsonian Institution affiliate in Maricopa County. The Center has won the following awards: 2002 Best Science Lesson from the Arizona Republic; First Place Best of the West Award for K-12 Education for the Smithsonian Educators Conference; and West Valley Treasure, WESTMARC. The Challenger Space Center is conveniently located at 21170 North 83rd Avenue, north of Union Hills, just off Loop 101, with easy access to and from the entire Valley. Information: 623.322.2001; or visit www.azchallenger.org.

###