



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paula Hubbs Cohen
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623.412.9799
paula.cohen@cox.net

ALL ARIZONA EDUCATORS INVITED TO ATTEND SMITHSONIAN TEACHERS' NIGHT AT THE CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER

The Challenger Space Center in Peoria, an affiliate of the Smithsonian, has been selected by the Smithsonian Institution as one of just three locations nationwide to host the 11th annual Smithsonian Teachers' Night. All Arizona educators are invited to attend this free event on Friday, September 19th, from 4:00-6:30 pm at the Challenger Center. On the same day, simultaneous celebrations will take place at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. and the Cosmosphere in Hutchison, Kansas.

The Smithsonian Teachers' Night at the Challenger Center, which this year celebrates the centennial of flight, is sponsored in part by the City of Peoria. This free event will feature speakers, demonstrations, and giveaways for teachers, including a complimentary tote bag filled with free Smithsonian educational resources for the classroom. The Smithsonian Institution's Dr. Herma Hightower, Director of National Programs, will join other Arizona dignitaries for this special education event. Teachers will receive 2.5 CEUs for participating in the program.

Registration is required, and can be completed by contacting Gloria Warnick at 623.322.2044 or email gwarnick@azchallenger.net.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS: On Smithsonian Teachers' Night at the Challenger Center, educators will be invited to:

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of Challenger's Mission Control, Space Craft and Shuttle Launch Simulator

- Preview the Kalusa Miniature Aircraft Exhibit, on loan from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Discover Near Earth Objects at the Asteroid Discovery Station
- Meet Astronaut Bill Gregory and Space Artist Bob McCall
- Meet Lt. Colonel Rich Scobee, son of Lt. Colonel Dick Scobee, the Commander of the Challenger Space Shuttle
- Enter drawings to win free prizes
- Enjoy cocktails, light refreshments and entertainment

Smithsonian Teachers' Night is an annual event for classroom teachers, principals, superintendents, curriculum specialists, community leaders, and home-schoolers. At the event, participants meet with museum and science center representatives and receive information about the Smithsonian's educational resources and how to use them to enhance their students' education.



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.

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