



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Q: WHAT DO YOUR MOM AND MISSION CONTROL HAVE IN COMMON?  
A: THEY BOTH WILL TELL YOU TO EAT YOUR VEGGIES!**

In partnership with the Maricopa County Office of Nutrition Services, the Challenger Space Center will be presenting SPACE PLACE, featuring special space nutrition facts, to a group of 106 kindergartners from Catalina Ventura Elementary School. Catalina Ventura is coming to Challenger from the Alhambra Elementary School District in Phoenix. This one-of-a-kind SPACE PLACE program will take place this Friday, September 26, between 9:30 and 11:30 am at the Challenger Center, 21170 North 83rd Avenue, in Peoria.

This unique visit is to help celebrate national "5 A Day" month, and features a trio of traveling fruits and veggies, including an astronaut-size stalk of broccoli and slice of watermelon, and an out-of-this-world orange. High on today's menu of SPACE PLACE activities will be a discussion of how good nutrition affects us here on Earth, as well as in space.

All Challenger media friends are invited to cover this event, which will include the reading of the story "I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato", in which tomatoes and other fruits and veggies are referred to in space-themed terms. In addition, there will be special giveaways for the students, including the small bean-stuffed toy, "Carlos Carrot", who will earn his astronaut wings at the Challenger Center during the program.

Space Place is available by reservation for preschools, kindergartens, neighborhood groups, and similar organizations. Public Space Place is also available by reservation on the first and third Mondays of every month.

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 is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. The Center has won the following awards: Best Science Lesson from the Arizona Republic; Best Place to See Stars from the New Times; First Place Best of the West Award for K-12 Education for the Smithsonian Educators Conference; and West Valley Treasure, WESTMARC. The 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](http://www.azchallenger.org).

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