

# NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center



## Self-Guided Field Trip Planning Guide & Onsite Program Request Form

# General Information

## WHERE TO BEGIN

Located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center welcomes you and your group to explore our engaging exhibits during a self-guided field trip. Current Visitor Center exhibits include:

- The NOAA Science On a Sphere interactive theater
- Exploring the Engineering Design Process with Sounding Rockets
- NISE Network's Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit
- Lunar Surface Exploration Exhibit
- Outdoor Rocket Garden and Observation Deck

## TO SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP

Admission to the NASA Wallops Visitor Center is free of charge. To notify the Visitor Center of your intended field trip visit, email [wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov) with information about the date of your visit, time of arrival, grade level(s), and number of guests (adults and youth) within your group.

## CHAPERONES

One chaperone is suggested for every ten students under the age of 18. Chaperones and educators can guide participants through the Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit through the K-12 Teacher Field Trip Guide: [https://www.nisenet.org/sites/default/files/sunearthuniverse\\_5\\_k-12\\_school\\_field\\_trip\\_guide\\_rev6-5-19.pdf](https://www.nisenet.org/sites/default/files/sunearthuniverse_5_k-12_school_field_trip_guide_rev6-5-19.pdf)

## ARRIVAL

Buses are welcome to drop off or pick up school groups at the entrance of the Visitor Center. All school buses may park in the designated bus spaces in the parking lot. Please notify the visitor center if you need to make any adjustments to your confirmed time of arrival.

## LUNCH

Groups will need to bring bagged lunches and will eat outdoors at the uncovered picnic tables by the parking lot. During extremely inclement weather, contingency plans may be made by Visitor Center staff. The Visitor Center does not have a lunch room or cafeteria. Please note that there is no food available for purchase onsite, but there is a water fountain and single drink vending machine.



### Visitor Center Hours

Tuesday-Saturday  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Onsite Program Availability

**ONSITE PROGRAMS ONLY AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAYS DURING THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR.**

### Location

NASA Wallops Flight Facility  
Visitor Center  
Rt 175 Wallops Island, VA 23337

### Important Information

The Visitor Center follows NASA COVID regulations. Currently, no restrictions are in place for the Wallops Facility, but regulations may change and additional guidance could be provided the week of your visit.

\*All Visitor Center programs and activities are subject to cancellation or change at any time due to NASA mission operations and exhibit installations.

### Wallops Visitor Center Contact Information

757.824.1404

[wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov)



# General Information Continued

## VISITING THE VISITOR CENTER GIFT SHOP

Groups are welcome to visit the Gift Shop! Because the space is limited, we ask teachers and trip leaders to please consider the following:

- Stagger groups so there is no more than 12 students in the store at a time. Groups may visit the gift shop during their scheduled exhibit hall time or during lunch time.
- Before your trip date, please let us know that you would like to visit the Gift Shop so that we are prepared to accommodate your group.
- Occasionally, the Gift Shop is closed for seasonal scheduling and routine inventory checks.
- Please ensure that students are supervised by an adult while in the Gift Shop.

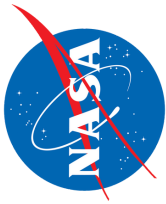


## ROTATIONS THROUGH VISITOR CENTER

To provide enough time and space for your students to maximize their field trip experience, students can be placed into smaller groups to rotate through the various exhibit spaces. Refer to the rotation schedule below as an example of a field trip group rotation.

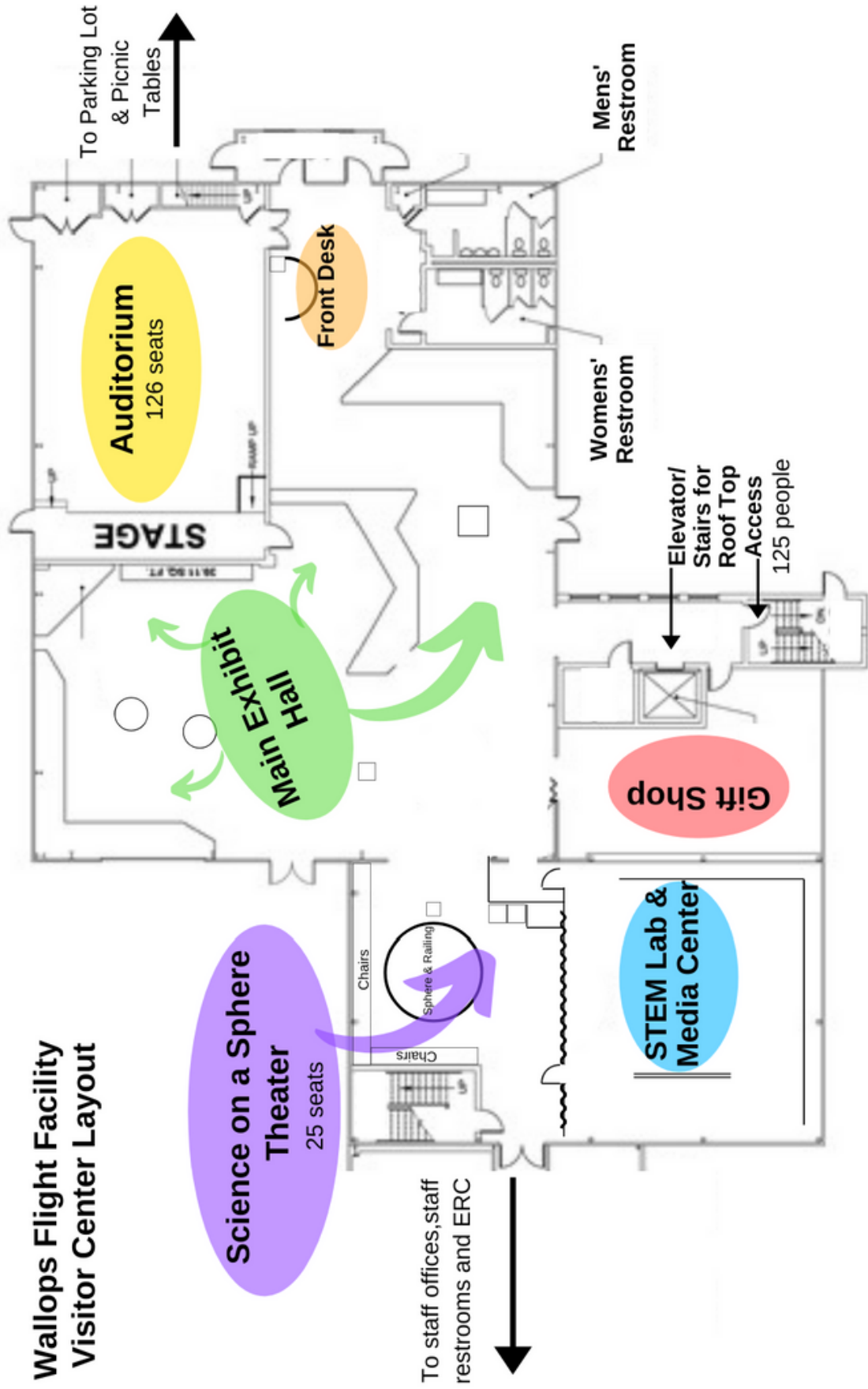
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
10AM	Arrival/Restrooms			
10-10:25 AM	Science On a Sphere	Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit	Outdoor Rockets	Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop
10:25-10:50 AM	Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit	Science On a Sphere	Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop	Outdoor Rockets
10:50- 11:15 AM	Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop	Outdoor Rockets	Science On a Sphere	Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit
11:15-11:35 AM	Outdoor Rockets	Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop	Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit	Science On a Sphere
11:35-11:55 AM	Lunch			





# Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center Map

## Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center Layout



## Visitor Center Hours

Tuesday-Saturday

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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\*All Visitor Center programs and activities are subject to cancellation or change at any time due to NASA mission operations and exhibit installations. Late arrivals the day of your trip may result in the cancellation of your onsite programs.

## Wallops Visitor Center Contact

### Information

757.824.1404

wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov

# Onsite Program Requests

A free onsite program may be added to your field trip experience based on program availability.

## ELIGIBILITY

Onsite programs are only available for non-profit organizations, public or private schools, educational institutions, homeschool groups, and civic groups.

Groups may not charge participants a fee to attend the program, with the exception of a fee that only covers the cost of transportation.

- All onsite programs are 60 minutes in duration.
- **Hands-on programs are for a maximum of 30 participants.**
- **Assembly programs are for a maximum of 100 participants.**
- **Groups must consist of a minimum of 15 students.**
- **A maximum of two, subsequent sessions of the same program can be booked by the visiting organization, with a 15-minute reset period between sessions.**

Program options are listed below by grade level.

## REQUESTING AN ONSITE PROGRAM

**Field trip requests must be submitted at least 4 weeks in advance.**

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## CHAPERONES

Our staff encourages and appreciates chaperone involvement, but strongly encourage chaperones from providing answers and too much assistance during activities.

## WEATHER

Come prepared for variable weather all year as select field trip programs make use of outside spaces. Being prepared with items like warm layers or sunscreen will ensure a successful trip to the Visitor Center. Biting insects are prevalent in the warmer months, so insect repellent spray can be handy! Do NOT apply insect spray or aerosol sunscreen inside the Visitor Center.

## TO SCHEDULE AN ONSITE PROGRAM-

1. Review the field trip planning guide and ensure that your group is eligible and choose the day, time, and program that works for your group.
2. Complete the fillable "Onsite Program Booking Form"
3. Submit the completed form to **wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov**.



NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center  
**Field Trip Add-On  
Onsite Programs**

Only available on Wednesdays, onsite programs may be added to your field trip experience when booked in advance.



**Hands-On Programming**

**60 minutes**

**Up to 30 Students**

**Wednesdays Only**

**K-2nd Grade**

- Stomp Rocket Rumble
- Imagination Playground

**3rd-5th Grade**

- Seltzer Rocket Splatter
- Parachute Design

**6-8th Grade**

- Strawkets: Air-powered Rocket
- Rigamajig Engineering Spacecraft Challenge



**Assembly Programs**

**60 minutes**

**Up to 100 Participants**

**Wednesdays Only**

**Explore Solar System and Beyond**

**Inquiring Minds**

## K-2nd Grade- Up to 30 Students

### **Stomp Rocket Rumble** *(Forces, Motion, Technology)*

Some rockets carry science tools-not scientists-into space! In this program, your budding rocket scientists will explore sounding rockets and basic forces as they build and launch a stomp rocket.

### **Imagination Playground** *(Creativity, Motor Skills, Communication)*

If your students like to tinker, build, and create, they'll love Imagination Playground! Using big blocks, gears, chutes, and hinges, they'll work together to explore simple machines and build cosmic creations.

## 3rd-5th Grade- Up to 30 Students

### **Seltzer Rocket Splatter** *(Forces, Motion, Chemistry, Art)*

Propel toward the skies as we explore rockets and experiment with fuel ratios to maximize rocket height! Participants will launch on a goldenrod paper platform, allowing them to create and take a unique art piece.

### **Parachute Design** *(Inquiry, Forces of Flight, Design, Math)*

Students learn how NASA Wallops Flight Facility tested the latest parachute used to land the Perseverance Rover on Mars, then explore the principles of flight and balancing of forces as they design a parachute that must safely deliver a payload.

## 6-8th Grade- Up to 30 Students

### **Strawkets: Air Powered Rockets** *(Forces and Motion)*

Explore the basic parts of a rocket and work through the engineering design process to aim for a target using our high-powered straw rocket launchers.

### **Rigamajig Engineering Spacecraft Challenge** *(Solar System, Engineering, Technology)*

Students work in teams to design and construct a spacecraft set to explore a mysterious location within our solar system.

## ASSEMBLY SHOWS- Up to 100 Students

*Assembly programs are adapted to the specified grade level of participants.*

### **EXPLORE SOLAR SYSTEM & BEYOND**

Participants explore the origin, components, forces, and scientific exploration of our local solar system "neighborhood" in space.

### **INQUIRING MINDS**

Use your thinking cap to predict what happens in our intriguing science demonstrations and to explain an outcome!