

# NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center



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

# 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
- 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** with information about the date of your visit, time of arrival, grade level(s), where you're coming from, and the number of guests (adults and youth) within your group.

## CHAPERONES

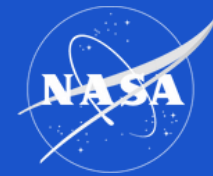
One chaperone is suggested for every ten students under the age of 18. Chaperones and educators can guide participants through the visitor center's exhibit spaces, including the gift shop, and ensure the group has a fun and safe experience.

## 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. Drop offs and pick ups are not permitted outside of the visitor center's operating hours.

## LUNCH

Groups will need to bring bagged lunches and will eat outdoors at the uncovered picnic tables by the parking lot. Please make alternative plans in the event of inclement weather. The visitor center does not have a lunch room or cafeteria, and no food or drink is available for purchase onsite.



## NASA Wallops Visitor Center Public Hours

Thursday - Saturday  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Onsite Program Availability

**Onsite programs are only available on WEDNESDAYS, September through May.**

## Location

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center  
175 Chincoteague Road  
Wallops Island, VA 23337

## Important Information

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

## Wallops Visitor Center Contact Information

757.824.1404

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:

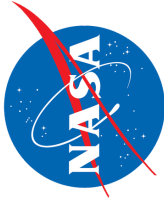
- Stagger groups so there is no more than 12 students in the store at a time. Groups may visit the gift shop during their scheduled exhibit hall time or during lunch time.
- Before your trip date, please let us know that you would like to visit the Gift Shop so that we are prepared to accommodate your 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

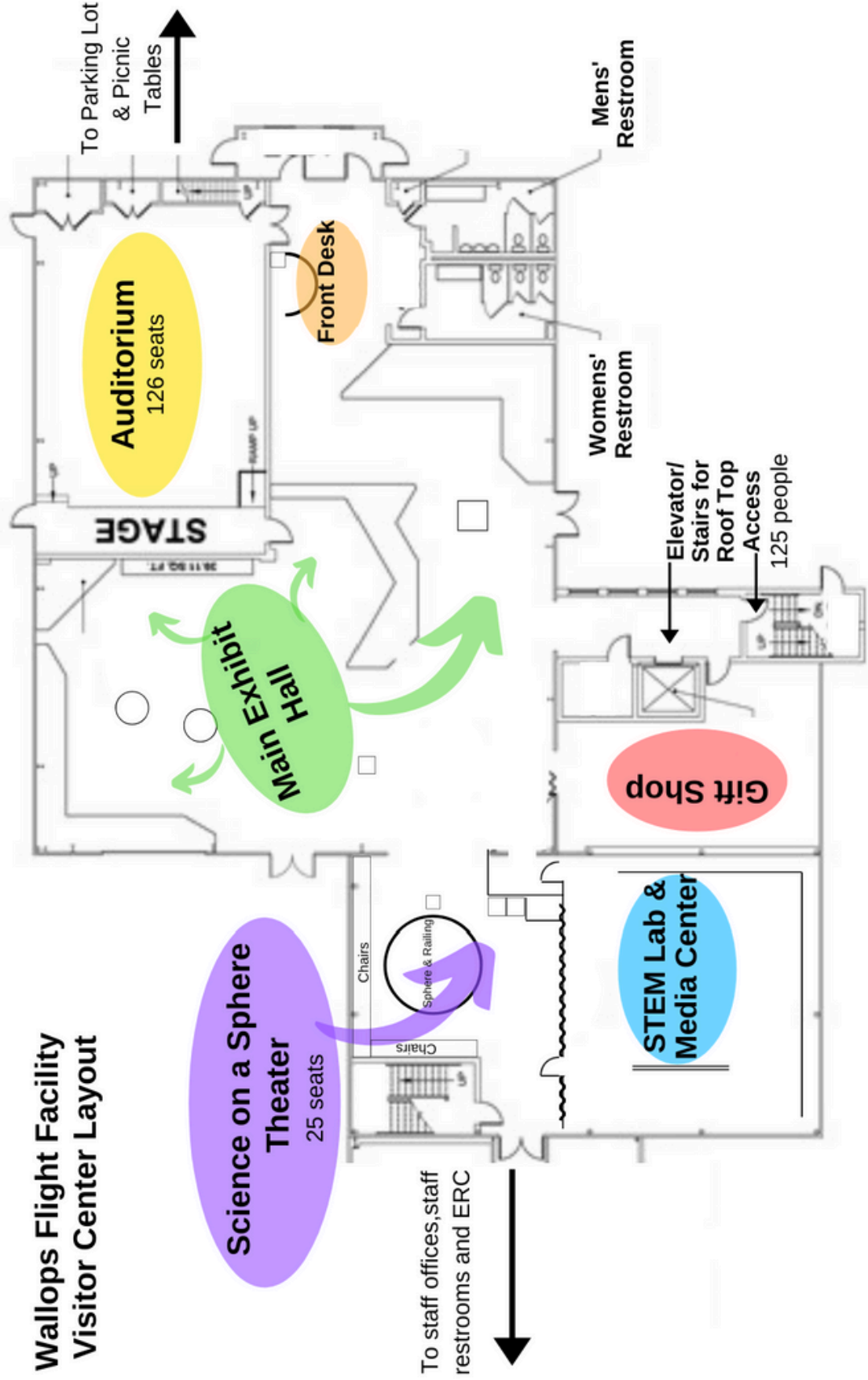
To provide enough time and space for your students to maximize their field trip experience, students can be placed into smaller groups to rotate through the various exhibit spaces. Refer to the rotation schedule below as an example of a field trip group rotation.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
10AM	Arrival/Restrooms			
10-10:25 AM	Science On a Sphere	Auditorium Videos	Outdoor Rockets	Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop
10:25-10:50 AM	Auditorium Videos	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	Auditorium Videos
11:15-11:35 AM	Outdoor Rocket	Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop	Auditorium Videos	Science On a Sphere
11:35-11:55 AM	Lunch			



# Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center Map

## Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center Layout



# Onsite Program Requests

Based on program availability, a free onsite program may be added to your self-guided field trip experience.

## TO SCHEDULE AN ONSITE PROGRAM

1. Review this field trip planning guide and ensure that your group is eligible.
2. Go to <https://wallops-visitor-center.appointlet.com/s/onsite-programs> to view available program times. Complete and submit the program request form.
3. After program details are confirmed, you will be sent a confirmation within 2-3 business days.
4. Carefully review the confirmation emails as you prepare for your field trip. Reach out to the NASA Wallops Visitor Center for further questions.

## 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, except for a fee that only covers the cost of transportation.

- All onsite programs are 60 minutes in duration.
- **The maximum number of participants depends on the onsite program type. Please ensure you fit this requirement before booking.**
- Groups must consist of a minimum of 15 students, and must not exceed the program's maximum capacity.

## CHAPERONES

Our staff encourages and appreciates chaperone involvement, but strongly encourages 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.

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## Location

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## Wallops Visitor Center Contact Information

757.824.1404

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



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

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

There are multiple options for you to choose **1** onsite program.



## Hands-On Programming

**60 minutes**

**Up to 30 Students**

**Wednesdays Only**

### Grades K-2

- Stomp Rocket Rumble
- Imagination Playground

### Grades 3-5

- Seltzer Rocket Splatter
- Parachute Design

### Grades 6-8

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



## Assembly Programs

**60 minutes**

**Adaptable to Grade Level**

**Wednesdays Only**

**Explore Solar System and Beyond**  
**Up to 100 participants**

**Guided Solar System Tour on NOAA  
Science On a Sphere Interactive Theater**  
**Up to 60 participants**

## 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- Adaptable to Grade Level

### **EXPLORE SOLAR SYSTEM & BEYOND - Up to 100 Students**

Participants explore the origin, components, forces, and scientific exploration of our local solar system "neighborhood" in space. The Explore Solar System & Beyond Assembly Show is adapted to the specified grade level of participants.

### **GUIDED SOLAR SYSTEM TOUR - Up to 60 Students**

Explore NASA planetary missions and our solar system through an educator-guided tour on our NOAA Science On a Sphere Interactive Theater with stops at the Sun, planets, dwarf planets, and the moon. Then, students can get an idea of how large our solar system is as they create a pocket size scale model of the solar system. The Guided Solar System Tour is adapted to the specified grade level of participants, and the hands-on activity is recommended for grades 3-8.