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Three, Two, One...Blast Off! WonderWorks Launches NASA's Journey to Mars

WonderWorks hosts NASA exhibits exploring their new powerful rocket

Myrtle Beach, SC (April 25, 2017) – WonderWorks, Myrtle Beach's science focused amusement park for the mind, has teamed up with NASA to showcase the future of deep space exploration and inspire space enthusiasts. The exhibit features interactive exhibits on NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft and includes a guest appearance by former Shuttle Astronaut Don Thomas.

The intergalactic weekend kicks off on Thursday, May 18, when Thomas will visit Myrtle Beach area elementary and middle schools, including Palmetto Academy, Ocean Bay Middle, and St. James Elementary/Middle schools. He will share his experiences in orbit and what it feels like to come back to earth. WonderWorks guests will have the opportunity to meet Thomas on Friday, May 19 from 4:30pm to 5:30pm and Saturday, May 20 from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Alongside NASA's new exhibits, Thomas will be giving presentations, spending time speaking to guests one on one, posing for photos, and signing autographs.

"It's an exciting time in America's space program," said former astronaut Don Thomas. "I am looking forward to visiting WonderWorks in Myrtle Beach to talk about my experiences as a space shuttle astronaut and tell people about the rocket that will take humans farther than they've ever gone before, NASA's Space Launch System."

This collaboration with NASA is a key component in WonderWorks' mission to keep kids interested in STEM education and careers. The team is proud to contribute to the growing movement to help students become more interested in science. The hope is that the program will help further promote the amazing work NASA does to keep the U.S. a leader in planetary exploration while inspiring younger generations to pursue careers in the space program.

"This is one of the most exciting events we have ever held at WonderWorks," said Regional Manager Robert Stinnett. "Working with NASA to showcase the plans they have for future explorations while influencing young minds to be space enthusiasts means the world to us. We always look to develop STEM learning and this collaboration is perfect."

Guests who purchase any WonderWorks ticket combo will get to visit with former Astronaut Don Thomas and check out all of NASA's amazing exhibits. The Orion spacecraft, which will launch atop the SLS rocket from the NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida is built to take astronauts farther into the solar system than ever before. One of the exhibits, NASA's Exploration Systems Virtual Tour, allows participants to experience the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft up close and scale models of the rocket will be on display. WonderWorks is honored to host NASA and share the exciting details on their journey to Mars.

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[WonderWorks](#) *the upside-down adventure, is a science focused, indoor amusement park for the mind, that holds something unique and interesting for visitors of all ages. Guests enter through an upside-down lobby with the ceiling at their feet and the ground above their head and must pass through an inversion tunnel to be turned right side up. There are four floors of non-stop "edu-tainment," with over 100 hands-on and interactive exhibits that serve a STEM educational purpose to challenge the mind and spark the imagination. WonderWorks Myrtle Beach is also home to Soar + Explore, an outdoor zip-line and ropes course challenge. WonderWorks has locations in Orlando, Pigeon Forge, Myrtle Beach, Panama City Beach, and Syracuse.*