



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
George Mason University®

George Mason Space Day 2024

EXPLORING OUR GALAXY AND BEYOND

Saturday, September 28 • 3 to 9 p.m.
Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall, Fairfax, VA

**Pre-registered check in and on site
registration opens at 2:00 p.m.**

Event Schedule:
science.gmu.edu/MasonSpaceDay

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Jared Harris & Patrick O'Neil



Michael Bowen

The Delawie Family

George Mason Space Day • September 28, 2024

Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall

- 2:30 p.m. **Doors open** (Seats are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.)
Please be seated in Dewberry Hall by 3 p.m. Overflow locations are offered in Innovation Hall, rooms 103/105 and Enterprise Hall, room 80.
- 3 p.m. **Opening remarks:** **Gabriele Belle**, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy
Cody W. Edwards, College of Science Interim Dean
Gregory Washington, George Mason University President
- 3:15 p.m. **Keynote:** **Dr. Kjell Lindgren**, NASA Astronaut
"Reaching for the Stars"
A meet and greet will take place in the Gold room immediately following Dr. Lindgren's talk.
Exit the right side of Dewberry Hall where a queue will form for all interested in autographs and photos with NASA speakers.
- 4 p.m. **Oleg Goushcha**, Aerospace Research Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center
"Return to the Moon Through Artemis: Analyzing Launch Vehicle Aerodynamics with Wind-tunnel Test and Artemis I Flight"
A meet and greet will take place in the Gold room from 5:30 to 6 p.m.
Exit the right side of Dewberry Hall where a meet and greet queue will form.
- 4:40 p.m. **Tom Reinert**, President, DarkSky International and **Eileen Kragie**, Founder, Dark Sky Friends
"Starlight Lost: Understanding Light Pollution and Its Impact in Our Lives"
- 5:05 p.m. **Peter Plavchan**, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, George Mason University,
Executive Director George Mason Observatory
"The NASA Landolt Mission at George Mason University"
- 5:30 p.m. **Shobita Satyapal**, Professor, Physics and Astronomy, George Mason University
"Hidden monsters in Galaxies: Supermassive black holes in the era of the James Webb Space Telescope"
- 5:55 p.m. **Jie Zhang**, Professor, Physics and Astronomy, George Mason University
"Solar Storms and Space Weather"
- 6:20 p.m. **Erdal Yiğit**, Professor, Physics and Astronomy, George Mason University
"Exploring Mars in 21st Century"
- 6:45 p.m. **Caelus Rocketry**: "Pioneering High School Liquid-Fueled Rocketry"
Alan Zhu, President; **Aarushi Bommidi**, Vice President of Operations
Elijah Guison-Dowdy, Avionics Lead; **Kritagya Khadka**, Structures Lead
Rushil Kukreja, Structures Engineer; **Nived Nandakumar**, Avionics Engineer
Jaemin Lee, Propulsion Engineer; **Yusra Wahidi**, Events Lead
- 7:10 p.m. Expert Panel: "How do you become a space expert?"
Dr. Kjell Lindgren, NASA Astronaut
Oleg Goushcha, Aerospace Research Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center
Peter Plavchan, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, George Mason University
Executive Director George Mason Observatory
Piotr Pachowicz, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering,
George Mason University
- 7:30 p.m. **Closing and raffle drawing.**
All registered attendees will receive a raffle ticket at the door for a chance to win one of several available prizes. Winners must be present for the entire Expert Panel discussion to receive their prize (i.e. new telescope, skylight projector, books about astronomy and sky viewing, moon lamp and more.) Tickets will be drawn after the last speakers at approximately 7:30 p.m.

A special thanks to our committee:

Gabriele Belle, Chair, Aarushi Bommidi, S Falgiano, Natasha Gilliam, Lesley Irminger, Audrey Kelaheer, Zander Leon, Tracy Mason, Piotr Pachowicz, Peter Plavchan, Rob Parks, Laura Powers, and Alan Zhu

George Mason Space Day • Exhibit and Activities (by floor)

Throughout the day, exhibits will be open in the Dewberry Hall lower-level lobby. Also on the lower-level, participants can sign up in advance for a timed walking tour to the George Mason Observatory, a tour of the Radio Dish, or reserve your spot in a timed Mason Planetarium Shows.

Lower-Level

Vendors and Exhibits | 2:30 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall Lobby
Visit participating organizations for information, games, and giveaways. (*Vendor Listing below*).

Speaker Series | 3 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall

Mason Observatory Tours | 4 to 9:20 p.m.

Mason Space Exploration Center, Research Hall
(*Tours are a 30-minute walk and presentation*).

Radio Dish Tours | 4 to 6 p.m.

Outside the Hub
(*Tours are a 30-minute walk and presentation*).

Third Floor

Introduction to the Night Sky | 4 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center, Meeting Room A
(*Night Sky shows are a 30-minutes and start on the hour from 4 to 8:30 p.m.*)

Outside Activities (weather permitting)

Bottle rocket launches and other activities

4 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center Outside West Plaza

Sun viewing with telescope

4 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center Outside South Plaza

First Floor

Activities for the kids | 4 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center Atrium

- Lunar Crater
- Spectral Tubes
- Angular Momentum Stool
- Arts & Crafts

Mason Planetarium Shows | 4 to 7:10 p.m.

Johnson Center Atrium (*Get your timed ticket on the Lower Level, shows are 15 minutes in length*).

Where to Eat?

During the event, food will be available for purchase at several Johnson Center eateries. These include:

Akeno Sushi	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Chipotle	10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.
FLIP Kitchen	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Halal Guys	11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Market Express	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Panera Bread	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

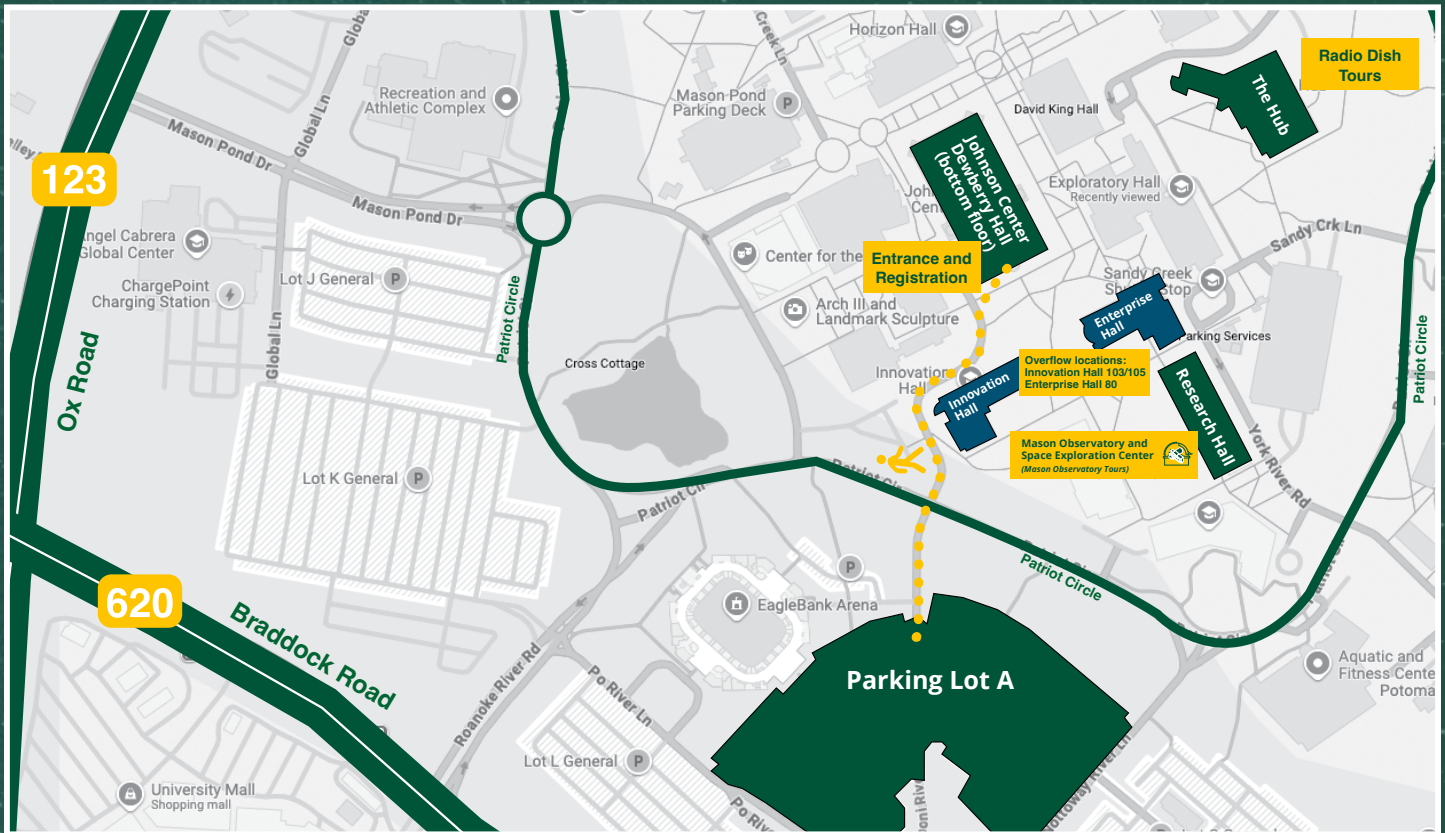
Vendors and Participating Organizations

Analemma Society
Audubon Society
BAE Systems
Because Science
Caelus Rocketry
Dark Sky Friends
DarkSky NOVA
Fairfax County Parks Authority
Friends of the Observatory
International Space University (ISU)
National Air and Space Museum (NASM)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Northern Virginia Astronomy Club (NOVAC)
Smithsonian Associates
SPEC Innovations

George Mason University Entities:

AIAA George Mason Chapter
Chemistry Club
College of Engineering and Computing
College of Science
College of Visual and Performing Arts
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Physics and Astronomy Society
Planetary Geology
Space Weather Group
Weather Club

Event Map & Parking



George Mason University is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodations in its services, programs, and activities. If you need information regarding accommodations related to a disability, ask for more information at the registration area.

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SPEC Innovations

LEO Sponsor (\$250)

Michael Bowan
The Delawie Family

KarmAn Line (\$100)

Analemma Society
Joan White

Share your feedback on George Mason Space Day 2024

Whether you attended today's event, volunteered your time, were a community or university partner, or supported our event at any level, please let us know what you enjoyed and what we can improve.



Thank you for joining us. See you next year for the
**Fourth Annual George Mason
Space Day on Saturday,
September 20, 2025.**