



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Rockets, Robots and Infantry – Hooah!

NIM is one of featured sites for NASA Community Day

Columbus, Georgia – April 14, 2017: The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center is proud to be a partner and one of the featured locations for “Columbus Goes to Mars” – as part of NASA’s Community Days. Special guests from the Kennedy Space Center will be in Columbus Friday and Saturday, May 5-6, for a free, community-wide, space-themed learning event hosted by Columbus State University's Coca-Cola Space Science Center.

The public event will kick off at 6 p.m. Friday with a panel discussion and a 7:30 p.m. screening of Academy Awards Best Picture nominee *Hidden Figures* in the National Infantry Museum’s Giant Screen Theater. *Hidden Figures* tells the story of three African-American female mathematicians who played a vital role at NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Prior to the screening, NASA experts from Kennedy Space Center will discuss their own experiences with America’s space programs and their inspirations for pursuing a career in aeronautics. **Admission to both the panel discussion and the movie will be free, however tickets are limited, and must be reserved at <https://nimfreemovie.eventbrite.com/>.** Concessions will be available for purchase.

On Saturday, May 6, NASA educators will be back at the NIM from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to lead visitors through various activities such as air-propelled rocket building and launching, and parachute design and testing. NASA’s prize-winning Pink Team robot, designed by high school students, will be on display.

Visitors will be encouraged to experience even more activities at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center and the Columbus Museum as well. Those who get their “passports” stamped at each location will receive a limited edition coin commemorating the event (while supplies last).

"Columbus Goes to Mars" marks the first time NASA's Kennedy Space Center has taken its community day program outside of its hometown of Titusville, Fla.

"The NASA/KSC team is extremely excited to bring a piece of the inspirational work of exploration to Columbus, Georgia," said Joshua Santora, program specialist at the

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NASA/KSC PX-E Education Office. "We are grateful to our collaborators and hosts and can't wait to share America's space programs with the people of Muscogee County."

Please visit www.ccssc.org/ColumbusGoesToMars.html for a detailed schedule of events and activities.

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*The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, a 155-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. Voted the **#1 Free Museum in America** in the 2016 USA Today Readers' Choice Awards, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, authentic World War II Company Street, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, combat simulators, a full-service restaurant and a Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.*