



The California Science Center is pleased to provide special insights to our generous supporters, Members and donors. Here's what's in this issue of *The Nucleus*:

[Get to Know Aerospace Curator Ken Phillips, PhD](#)

[Countdown to NASA Mars 2020 Mission](#)

[Science Beyond the Center](#)

[Special ExploraStore Discount for Our Generous Supporters](#)

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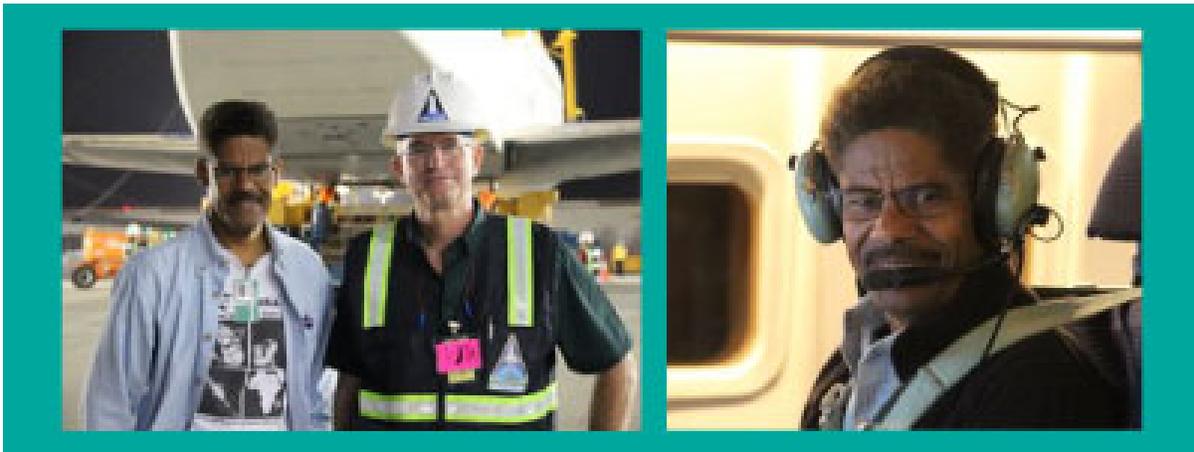
[Virtual Backgrounds](#)

[Renew Your Membership and Support Science Learning for Everyone](#)

Science Center family, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and continuing to learn. During these incredibly difficult times, your vital support enables the California Science Center to continue our mission to inspire science learning in everyone. As we adapt to challenges and find new ways to serve the community with educational programming and exhibits, we reaffirm our commitment to the Science Center's core values of accessibility and inclusiveness that are at the heart of everything we do.

THANK YOU!

GET TO KNOW AEROSPACE CURATOR KEN PHILLIPS, PHD



The California Science Center is excited to launch [Get to Know](#), a new online series of articles providing insights about the team who bring our exhibits to life, with an article about Dr. Ken Phillips, Curator for Aerospace Science. Dr. Ken joined the Science Center over 30 years ago and has been instrumental in transforming what was once a largely historical air and space artifact collection into one that utilizes interactive learning experiences to interpret science and engineering principles around aeronautics and space exploration. In the early 1990's, not long after Dr. Ken started his tenure at the Science Center, he began envisioning the possibility of attaining a space shuttle for exhibition. Dr. Ken's vision became reality in 2011, when NASA awarded Space Shuttle Endeavour to the California Science Center.

The [Stuck at Home Science](#) episode, [Pushing Against Gravity](#) highlights our phenomenal collection of spacecraft and, through Dr. Ken's interactive activities, illustrates how all space exploration is about "building the speed we need and working against gravity."

"Just for kicks", a sidebar in the [Get to Know](#), delivers even more insights about our exhibits team. It is here where we can read of Dr. Ken's interest in visiting another planet or galaxy.

As part of the California Science Center's contribution to combat the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Ken has been trained to participate in [California Connected](#), the state's coronavirus contact tracing program. Along with a few additional Science Center staff, he is contributing to the statewide effort that may grow to as many as 10,000 contact tracers who reach out to people who test positive for COVID-19 and alert anyone that may have been exposed, keeping names confidential. They'll inquire about symptoms, and offer guidance regarding self-isolation and quarantine. Contact tracing has been used for decades to fight infectious disease and is an important step in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Early awareness helps you protect your friends and loved ones from exposure.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ken's aerospace science work hasn't slowed down. On Monday, July 27, he will host Countdown to Mars, a LIVE conversation with science experts from USC about the NASA Mars 2020 Mission scheduled for launch this month. See article below for more details.

New [Get to Know](#) features will be posted approximately twice a month. Stay tuned for the next installment featuring Brittany Oates, Exhibit Program Coordinator.

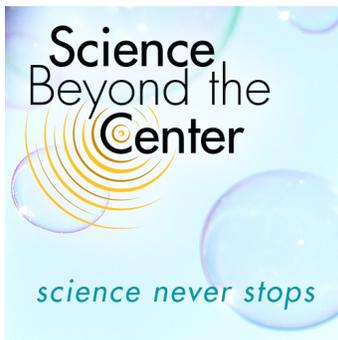
COUNTDOWN TO NASA MARS 2020 MISSION



Join us on Monday, July 27, from 10 to 11 a.m. PDT for a **LIVE conversation with space science experts at USC and the California Science Center about the NASA Mars 2020 Mission this month.** The panel will feature our very own [Ken Phillips](#), Curator for Aerospace Science at the California Science Center, [Anita Sengupta](#), Associate Professor of Astronautics at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, [Ken Nealson](#), Emeritus Professor of Earth Science at the Dornsife College and [Garrett Reisman](#) former NASA Astronaut and currently professor of Astronautical Engineering at USC's Viterbi School of Engineering.

Watch the live broadcast and discuss the subject on [USC Facebook](#).

SCIENCE BEYOND THE CENTER



Missing your visits to the California Science Center? [Science Beyond the Center](#), an online portal on our website, will give you special behind-the-scenes access to Science Center exhibits in ways you've never seen before.

This week, dig into the world of insects with Keeper Kit as she explores what makes insects unique. Find out about their exoskeletons and how they grow out of them, learn what makes insects unique, and discover some great things insects do for the world around them. Don't miss cameos from astounding insects like the Caribbean cave cockroach, bess beetles, velvet ants and darkling beetles.

You can also take tours through [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#) and hear exclusive interviews with astronauts. Explore amazing images and insights from our curators and find out how exhibits are made. And check out some videos from our traveling exhibitions. New content will be added regularly.

Bookmark the [Science Beyond the Center](#) page and check back often to see what's new!

SPECIAL EXPLORASTORE DISCOUNT FOR OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



Let your wild side out while doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 with a washable animal themed mask for adults and children! Members and other generous supporters receive 10% off all web orders until the end of August, as well as free shipping on all orders \$50 and over. Use promo code: **MemberSummer10** at checkout.

[Shop Now](#)

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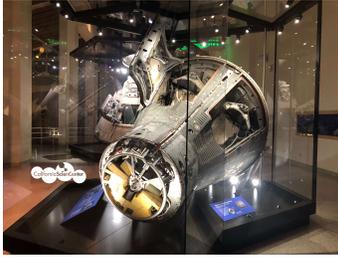


Looking for a deeper connection with the California Science Center? Please consider joining the Partners in Learning annual giving program to help sustain the hands-on exhibits, programs and operations that make the California Science Center a world-class educational resource and family destination.

With the Science Center's doors temporarily closed to the public the support of our Partners in Learning donors is vital to helping the California Science Center continue our mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone.

[Become a Partner in Learning](#)

VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS



Download and use these free virtual backgrounds featuring some of our favorite scenes from the California Science Center during your video conference meetings.

NEW! The Mercury-Redstone 2 space capsule (foreground) shines luminously while on glorious display with the Gemini 11 space capsule at the California Science Center.

Download

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT SCIENCE LEARNING FOR EVERYONE



During these challenging and uncertain times, your support as a Member is critical to our ability to continue serving our community with free online science learning opportunities.

Please renew your Membership today in support of our mission to inspire science learning in everyone.

Renew



If your Membership is not due for renewal and you are in a position to make an additional gift, of any amount, we invite your contribution.

Your generous support will help sustain the California Science Center as a trusted educational resource while we are temporarily closed to the public. Thank you!

Donate



23,000 thermal tiles protected Space Shuttle Endeavour from overheating as it reentered Earth's atmosphere to bring astronauts safely home. **Sponsor one of these tiles today and you can preserve Endeavour's future by helping us build its permanent home – the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center.**

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