



Heroes & Legends and U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® presented by Boeing

With all the drama of an actual trip to space, guests of [Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex](#) in Florida will be greeted with a dramatic sense of arrival with the new Heroes & Legends featuring the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® presented by Boeing. Positioned just inside the entrance, the attraction sets the stage for a richer park experience by providing the emotional background and context for space exploration and the legendary men and women who pioneered our journey into space.

Through engaging storytelling, guests embark on an awe-inspiring journey that begins with an immersive exhibit designed to spark thought and discussion about how society defines a hero. Then, through cutting-edge technology, interactive elements and engaging exhibits, visitors are introduced to the heroes of the NASA space program: the pioneers who worked together to make space exploration possible.

- In the stunning 360-degree discovery bay, *What is a Hero?*, guests will explore how society defines heroism through diverse perspectives. Each examination of heroism starts with the following questions: What is a hero; Who are the heroes of our time; and What does it take to be a hero? During the seven-minute presentation, the historic beginning of the space race is acknowledged as the impetus for America's push to the stars in NASA's early years and the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.
- *Through the Eyes of a Hero* is a custom-built theater featuring a multi-sensory experience during which guests will vicariously join NASA's heroes and legends on the most perilous stages of their adventures. Artistically choreographed lighting and 3D imagery will be enhanced by intense, deeply resonant sound effects to create the sensation of being "in the moment." The seven and one-half minute show takes guests on an intimate journey with four space-age heroes to fully immerse them in the awe, excitement and dangers of the first crewed space program missions.
- The third experience, *A Hero Is...*, offers interactive exhibits that highlight the nine different attributes of our history making astronauts: inspired, curious, passionate, tenacious, disciplined, confident, courageous, principled and selfless. A collection of nine exhibit modules will explore each aforementioned attribute, through the actual experiences of NASA's astronauts. Their stories are enhanced with memorabilia from the astronaut or the space program.

Other interactive features will inspire further exploration of the original Mercury Mission Control room consoles with a periodic flashback to the tense moments preceding the landing of Friendship 7 by astronaut John Glenn. Through the use of holograms, guests can watch as astronaut Eugene Cernan conducts a spacewalk outside of the Gemini IX spacecraft, bringing space program artifacts to life in a way never before possible.

- The culminating exhibit of Heroes & Legends is the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Housed in a majestic rotunda, the exhibit intimately connects the visitor to each of the nearly 100 astronaut inductees through the use of state-of-the-art interactive technology. A signature element of the experience will be the ability to capture a memento of their journey: a special photo opportunity that allows the guests to pose with the Mercury astronauts. Guests may use interactive touch screens to explore astronaut stories in more detail.

The goal is for visitors to leave both attractions with a renewed sense of pride and a more in-depth understanding and appreciation of the qualities of heroism represented by NASA's pioneering astronauts, and why they deserve admiration and respect.

By the numbers

- Opened: November 11, 2016
- Total video content: 4 hours, 52 minutes, 23 seconds
- Total photos: 7,926
- Total interviews conducted: 126
- Notable astronauts interviewed: Buzz Aldrin, Jim Lovell, Frank Borman, Tom Stafford, Fred Haise, Alan Bean, Walt Cunningham, Charlie Duke, Al Worden , Robert Crippen
- Original music by: Award winning composer Penka Kouneva: composer/orchestrator on 34 Hollywood films and AAA video games
- Square footage: 37,000 with second floor and ramp

Fun Facts

- Total astronauts in Astronaut Hall of Fame: 93
- Size of bas relief: Nearly 30' tall, 40' wide
- Bas-relief was digitally sculpted by design team, then carved by CNC machines, made out of fiberglass.
- Number of artifacts: Nearly 100
- *Through the Eyes of a Hero*, a custom built 4D theater has a 225-degree sweep, toroid-shaped, roughly 28-feet tall
- The creative team filmed the live footage at 6K resolution with a digital cinema camera and utilized a specialized camera lens to increase the immersive experience
- The attraction contains two flown capsules (Mercury Sigma 7, Gemini IX), a human-rated Mercury-Redstone rocket (MR-6), the original Mercury Mission Control consoles, and a host of other items flown during the early NASA programs