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## PRESS RELEASE

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**Note to editors:** High-res images are available at <http://bit.ly/2Xx5rgF>.

### ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER LAUNCHES ITS CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11 WITH A VISIT FROM AMERICAN ASTRONAUT MARK KELLY

**PHOENIX (JULY 6, 2019)** – Mission Control to Phoenix, we are GO for LAUNCH! This July, the world celebrates one of the greatest human achievements in science – the 50th anniversary of mankind’s first steps on the moon! Earlier today, with a very special visit from retired NASA Astronaut Mark Kelly, Arizona Science Center officially launched its month-long 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Apollo 11 Mission.

Kelly spent the day interacting with guests, regaling them with tales of his own NASA missions and reminiscing that as the pilot for the STS-121 *Discovery* in 2006, he became the first shuttle mission to launch on the Fourth of July. In addition, Kelly joined guests in engaging with the Center’s more than 300 hands-on exhibits and witnessing live demonstrations led by the Blue Crew, the Center’s team of science interpreters.

As well, Kelly was the guest of honor at a luncheon with Chevy Humphrey, The Hazel A. Hare President & CEO of Arizona Science Center, its Board of Trustees, President's Club members, and special guests.

In two separate shows throughout the day, Kelly delighted guests with a unique and personalized presentation of the *Grand Tour of the Solar System* in the Dorrance Planetarium, offering his insights on space, space-travel, and the solar system – Kelly’s flown more than 22 million miles in space and orbited the Earth 853 times!

The day concluded in the Irene P. Flinn Giant Screen Theater, where Kelly hosted a showing of the giant-screen formatted film, *Apollo 11: First Steps Edition*. After the showing, Kelly spoke to the audience and answered questions.

In a Tweet following the event Kelly posted “It was great meeting so many young Arizonans enthusiastic about science. Our state is lucky to have a resource like the Science Center that excites students and families about the power of science.”

Throughout the month, Arizona Science Center will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 with events and space-themed programming including daily showings of the film *Apollo 11: First Steps Edition* in the Irene P. Flinn Giant Screen Theater; participation in Global Rocket Launch Day and a community event to observe the full moon both on Tuesday, July 16; an adults only Science With A Twist: Apollo-palooza the evening of July 19, and family-friendly community celebrations on Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20. Additional information is available at [azscience.org/apollo11](http://azscience.org/apollo11).

## **ABOUT ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER**

The mission of Arizona Science Center is to inspire, educate, and engage curious minds through science. The Center, located at 600 E. Washington Street in downtown Phoenix, features more than 300 hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, the state-of-the-art Dorrance Planetarium, and the five-story Irene P. Flinn Giant Screen Theater. CREATE at Arizona Science Center®, the 6,500 square-foot community makerspace adjacent to the main building, provides workshops, including 3D printing, laser cutting, woodworking, and sewing. The Center offers programs for all ages, including CAMP INNOVATION, professional development and learning opportunities for educators, events developed and led by teens, and Science With A Twist, a monthly adults only event. For additional details, please visit [azscience.org](http://azscience.org).

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