SPACE SHUTTLE PAVILION REOPENED

Intrepid Museum’s Space Shuttle Pavilion, featuring Enterprise, officially reopened on July 10.

Hundreds of visitors joined leadership from NASA on the flight deck of the Intrepid to celebrate the official reopening of the redesigned and rebuilt Space Shuttle Pavilion. The official ribbon cutting ceremony and public reopening of the Space Shuttle Pavilion took place almost nine months after the original structure housing Enterprise was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

“After months of hard work by our entire Intrepid Museum team following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, we are thrilled to welcome visitors back for an up-close view of the magnificent space shuttle Enterprise,” said Susan Marenoff-Zausner, President of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. “The new Space Shuttle Pavilion exhibition offers visitors a unique educational experience, revealing new details about the fascinating history behind the shuttle program and the one and only Enterprise.”

The space shuttle Enterprise was NASA’s first orbiter, a prototype that conducted critical tests within Earth’s atmosphere in 1977. These pioneering tests paved the way for the successful orbital flights of later shuttles, beginning with the first flight of the space shuttle Columbia in 1981. Following the retirement of the shuttles in 2011, NASA awarded Enterprise to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

“Hurricane Sandy affected many of us in the greater New York area, including our friends at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum,” said Frank Scalzo, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Director of Education and head of the New York City Research Initiative. “Space shuttle Enterprise weathered the storm just fine, thanks to the team at Intrepid. Since that time, they have worked hard to restore their valuable collection of aerospace artifacts. Enterprise is in good hands and is ready to renew its new mission of inspiring future space explorers. We hope everyone has a chance to visit the new pavilion and experience this important part of NASA’s space exploration history.”

We look forward to welcoming you to this fabulous new exhibit!
By: Elaine Charnov, Vice President of Exhibits

The space shuttle Enterprise, the prototype NASA orbiter that paved the way for America’s successful space shuttle program, opened on July 10. This dynamic next iteration of the Space Shuttle Pavilion includes seventeen content rich exhibit zones enhanced by original artifacts, photographs and films, featuring scientific and human stories relating to the shuttle era. All of these experiences orbit around the one and only space shuttle Enterprise, which has recently been recognized as the first shuttle on the National Register of Historic Places.

Upon entering the Pavilion, visitors will travel through a soundscape and encounter the actual voices and conversations between mission control and the Enterprise astronauts as they navigated their fifth and final free flight test, proving that Enterprise could land on a runway like an airplane. The Russian Soyuz TMA-6 capsule on loan to the Museum, and previously situated in the Exploreum, has moved to the Pavilion and is housed under the tail cone of Enterprise. This placement provides an exciting opportunity to interpret the similarities and differences between the two spacecraft. For instance, the space shuttle had a 30-year career, while Soyuz has been in service for 45 years and counting.

The Pavilion is enormous, nearly 19,000 sq. feet, and some of the exhibit installations are suitably large. One grand installation, “Stories of the Shuttle Fleet,” describes the major accomplishments of each of the six orbiters using a large graphic format. This section highlights the meanings of their individual names and notable missions.

How does Enterprise specifically, and the shuttle era in general, impact our life here on earth? Another of the exhibit areas focuses on the technological innovations that have been translated for commercial and consumer use. For example, one of the eyeglass styles that we consider “fashion forward” was a direct result of NASA’s need for hinge-free eyewear for shuttle astronauts. Research on astronauts’ blood pressure led to a device that increases blood flow during CPR, improving survival rates. Stories and objects about these and other items are on display in the Pavilion.

An Education Zone provides a dedicated area for the talented Museum educators and tour guides to enhance many of the stories presented here. This area will also contain a continuously streaming video feed from “ViewSpace.” These segments are produced with assistance from NASA and updated daily. They feature the latest in space science news including the discoveries from the Hubble Space Telescope, updates from the Curiosity rover on Mars, research on the International Space Station, and many other special science programs.

Take time to experience the stories and to revel in the fact that this historic shuttle, 138 feet long and 150,000 lbs. sits atop the historic aircraft carrier Intrepid, which floats on the Hudson River, in the great city of New York.
INTREPID’S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

The Intrepid Museum Education Department received well-earned and deserved recognition at the Teacher Education for Advanced Science Preparation (TEASP) awards ceremony on June 10 at Lehman College. Over two years, (spring 2012-spring 2013) the Intrepid Museum Education Department provided a series of teacher professional development workshops for TEASP, a NYC Department of Education professional development program for K-8 science teachers. Each year, seventy-five teachers within Community Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were provided with 49 hours of professional development. Other participating organizations were the Wildlife Conservation Society, NY Botanical Gardens, and the NY Hall of Science.

The Education Department hosted teachers on three separate weekend dates, for a total of six full-day sessions. Topics covered were in both Earth and marine science relating to the Hudson River and other water ways in the NY region. Literacy activities used historic materials from the Museum’s archives. Original lessons relating to Hurricane Sandy were created in the aftermath of the storm so that teachers could relate this real world event back to their classrooms.

Educational Programming
Education has been critical to Intrepid’s mission since the very beginning. Children and teachers visit the Museum annually for tours, workshops, and leadership experiences. Our educational programming uses the ship, artifacts, restored aircraft, exhibits and interactives as a laboratory to help students learn science, technology, engineering, math, and history. Join us for hands-on investigation, active learning and lots of fun. For more information, call 646-381-5010 or email educationprograms@intrepidmuseum.org.

Weekend Programming
Join Museum educators in exploring topics related to the Museum’s themes of sea, air, space and life aboard Intrepid. Stop at the Information Desk to learn more about what is happening on the day of your visit. See you then!

Access Programs
Intrepid is committed to providing interactive educational experiences to all visitors. To learn more about Access Programs, call 646-381-5163 or email access@intrepidmuseum.org.

Questions? Call 646-381-5030.
Museum Hours
April 1 - October 31: Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat, Sun & Holidays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
November 1 - March 31: Open daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Last ticket sold and entry one hour prior to closing.

For more information and directions, call 1-877-957-SHIP or visit our website at intrepidmuseum.org.

MORE TO EXPLORE:

POP UP EXHIBIT: WORKING BELOW DECK OPENS AUGUST 15
Operating the USS Intrepid required the skills of 3,000 men, many of whom worked below decks. In this pop-up exhibit, the Intrepid Museum will highlight a few of these occupations through original ship’s equipment that has never been on public display before. Among the equipment to be showcased is a vintage laundry press, illustrating the demanding task of keeping the crew looking clean and pressed to Navy standards. These authentic pieces of equipment reveal the behind-the-scenes occupations that were essential to the operation of Intrepid.

SUMMER SALUTE TO HEROES CONTINUES AT THE INTREPID MUSEUM WITH OUR FREE MOVIE NIGHTS:

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT
As a non-profit organization, your tax-deductible support is vital to Intrepid Museum’s ongoing mission to honor, educate and inspire. We invite our members to visit the newly reopened Space Shuttle Pavilion, rediscover submarine Growler and explore our collection of authentically restored aircraft. With thousands of items on display, you will find something new every time you visit — whether you come for an hour or a day. Email membership@intrepidmuseum.org or call 646-381-5030 and renew today.