

Press Release**Contact:**

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For Immediate Release:**Three Billion-Year-Old Touchable Moon Rock to be Featured at the Stafford Air & Space Museum**

Weatherford area residents will soon have the chance to touch a 3 billion-year-old moon rock brought back to Earth aboard the last manned moon mission, Apollo 17. The moon rock is the centerpiece of NASA's "Driven to Explore Mobile Exhibit" that will visit the Stafford Air & Space Museum on May 4 and 5, and is one of only seven lunar samples in the world that are made available for the public to touch and feel.

The NASA Johnson Space Center's "Driven to Explore" exhibit is a multimedia experience showcasing the Shuttle Program, the progress of the International Space Station and the benefits of space exploration leading into NASA's next major program, Constellation. The walking tour includes breathtaking imagery and state-of-the-art models of the Constellation Program's next-generation launch vehicles and human spacecraft destined for use to explore the moon and beyond.

According to Chuck Dougherty, Stafford Air & Space Museum Director, "This is a fantastic educational opportunity for the Weatherford area. I hope many of the local and area schools will plan to bring classes here to touch the moon rock and learn about NASA's latest programs. Our goal at the museum is to inspire the youth of the area to become more interested in science, flight, and space exploration, but I also want to encourage explorers of all ages to visit."

The exhibit will be located on the south ramp of the airport, near the main terminal. The exhibit is wheelchair accessible, and takes approximately 10 minutes to see. The exhibit will be open 9am-5pm May 4 and 5 only. Classes interested in visiting the exhibit are encouraged to call ahead to the Stafford Air & Space Museum at 580-772-5871 for more information. The "Driven to Explore" exhibit has no admission charge and is designed for all ages to enjoy.

The Stafford Air & Space Museum is named in honor of Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford, who was born and raised in Weatherford, Oklahoma and graduated with honors from the United States Naval Academy. He piloted Gemini VI, and commanded Gemini IX, Apollo 10, and the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project Mission. Stafford was the eighth recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Visit www.staffordmuseum.com for more information.

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