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Special Media Preview: 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 30

Blast off with Exploration Place's new *Astronaut* exhibit

WICHITA, Kansas — Jump into your space suit and report for training, because the newest addition to Exploration Place has landed, and it's out of this world! The *Astronaut* exhibit brings with it a whole space lab full of science fun. It opens Oct. 1 and runs through Jan. 2 and is included with regular admission.

This interactive and hands-on exhibition explores the physical and mental challenges involved in space exploration and gives visitors a taste of what life is like outside Earth and its atmosphere.

Visitors will learn what it takes to be a space explorer through 26 exhibit components, including:

- What it's like to sleep, eat, shower and use the toilet in space
- The teamwork needed to solve problems and accurately perform tasks
- How to overcome challenges such as communicating with mission control, monitoring damage to your spacecraft and landing a capsule.

Exploration Place is also launching an exclusive new live science show in conjunction with *Astronaut*. *Orbit Academy* is performed three times a day: 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Exploration Place's performers bring science concepts to life in a way that is both educational and fun. The *Orbit Academy* live science show is included with the All Access Pass and is free for visitors; otherwise admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for youth.

Astronaut is presented by Textron Aviation, with additional support from the Cosmosphere and NASA in Kansas. *Astronaut* is an international touring exhibit created by Scitech in Perth, Australia.

The mission of Exploration Place, Kansas' premier science center, is to inspire a deeper interest in science through creative and fun experiences for people of all ages. Exploration Place is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday.