



Wapakoneta, Ohio

FIRST ON THE MOON

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For additional information, contact Dante Centuori, director, 419-738-8811

Photos of the museum are included in a separate file with this press kit

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Discover the Moon at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum

500 Apollo Drive, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

On July 20, 1969, the world paused for a brief, shining moment. Apollo 11 had reached the moon. Wapakoneta's native son, Neil Armstrong, stepped out of the Eagle and set foot on the soft dust of the lunar surface and said the words we still quote today:

“That’s one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind.”

As the local astronaut was saying these words, Ohio officials were already planning a museum to honor all Ohioans who have attempted to defy gravity. Opened only three years after the moon landing, on July 20, 1972, the museum takes visitors on a journey through aerospace history. More than 400,000 people worked to place humans on the moon, and Ohio manufacturing and aerospace industries played a key role. Today, Armstrong's story and other Ohioan's achievements in the history of flight are explored at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta.

The museum itself is designed to resemble a futuristic moon base. It is most beautiful when viewed at night when the dome glows white and the F5D Skylancer appears to take off from its runway.

The museum contains many authentic artifacts, including the Gemini VIII spacecraft, Neil Armstrong's Gemini and Apollo spacesuits, and a lunar sample – the NASA term for a moon rock. The museum is also home to two full-size aircraft, including the Aeronca Champion, the very airplane in which Neil Armstrong learned to fly.

Discover the past, present and future of science, engineering, technology and math via inter-active exhibits and simulators. Visitors can practice landing the lunar module and space shuttle, experience simulated zero-gravity or dock the Gemini capsule, just as Neil Armstrong did in 1966.

The 56-foot dome in the center of the museum houses the Astro Theater, where guests can watch an informative movie. Simulators and the film are included with your admission to the Armstrong Air & Space Museum.