

Viking - 50 Years On Mars

Virginia Air & Space Science Center
American Institute of Astronautics & Aeronautics (AIAA) &
The Viking Mars Missions Education & Preservation Project

July 18, 2026

**Celebrating Viking - the first successful surface mission to Mars
At Virginia Air & Space Science Center**



**Celebrating NASA Langley Research Center's Viking mission,
a Mars exploration milestone in 250 years of American achievements**

Open to the public from 10am to 4pm

Meet and Listen to Past and Current Space Exploration Leaders and Students

Viking Mission Team Members who served on the first mission to Mars' surface. Team members served in roles from Science and Engineering to Testing and Mission Operations from the many institutes and NASA Centers that designed, built, and operated all three craft - Titan III E, Orbiters, and Landers

10am to 10:30am: Rex Ridenoure, Launching a Space Career as a Viking Student Intern

10:30am to 11am: Dr. Ella Atkins, Title: Virginia Tech's Talent Pipeline to Space

11am to 11:30am: Stan Anderson, ARIA providing astronaut communications around the world

11:30am to Noon: Dr. Kevin Shinpaugh, Virginia Tech Undergraduate Capstone spacecraft design

Noon to 12:30pm: George Green, Langley atmospheric research supporting Viking

12:30 to 1pm: Dr. Darrell Jan, One Viking Intern's Experience

1pm to 1:30pm: Dr. Nathan Cohen, Viking Intern, Expanding Viking's Legacy: Power-to-Ground (PTG) Systems for Mars

1:30 to 2pm: Andy Oberta, Planetary Science Life Beyond Viking

2pm to 2:30pm: Olivier de Goursac, Viking Graduate Student "Lander Images Revisited"

2:30pm to 3pm: Dr. Anthony M. Calomino will talk about nuclear applications in space exploration

Experience Mars Exploration then and now!

- Meet and greet with Viking mission members for personal insight and possibly autographs!
- Industry experts will share their will share current and past Mars Exploration history and plans
- Students from Virginia Tech and University of Arizona will share their projects based REAL science and engineering projects
- Talented 3D Modelers and Artists share their technical and artistic renderings inspired by Viking These and

other surprise Guests will make a day to remember!

- Viking themed kids activities for all ages

Bring your friends, relatives, and Teachers to this action-packed day!

The Viking Mars Missions Education & Preservation Project (VMMEPP) is a 501c3 nonprofit, preserving the history and artifacts from the Viking Mission, the first successful combined Orbiter and Lander missions to Mars. VMMEPP partners with institutions worldwide to share the educational and historical materials through exhibits, an online Viking Museum with original material for research, engineering, and historical documents and images, as well as education outreach by VMMEPP and Viking Team Members in person and online.

Event Location

Virginia Air & Space Science Center

600 Settlers Landing Rd.

Hampton, VA 23669

Press Contacts

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