

# FLIGHT PATH

JUNE 2018 Edition



## Our Heroes

by Rachel Zsolnai

After making your way through the front doors and purchasing your tickets, you can't help but stop at a second desk right as you enter the museum itself. This is our volunteer station where our wonderful volunteers anxiously greet you with their warm smiles and extensive knowledge.

Many visitors may not be aware of this, but many of our volunteers are military vets of multiple branches, and were highly involved in aviation—some even flew aircrafts! Some of our volunteers have been involved with the production, flying, testing, and engineering of some of the aircrafts displayed throughout the museum. The branches of military our volunteer come from include army, air force, marines and the navy.

Our volunteers spend hours a day in TASM giving tours to class field trips, talking to individual groups, or merely telling stories and sharing a part of their history with those that visit.

Next time you visit the Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium, take the opportunity to visit with one of our wonderful volunteers!

# Reaching For The Stars

by Rachel Zsolnai

May 14, 2018—The Astronauts on the International Space Station paid TASM a visit via Skype, allowing 20 selected students from several schools to participate in this special occasion. Students came from various school districts such as Mayo, Booker T. Washington, Okmulgee, and even home school to ask the astronauts their chosen questions.

Richard Arnold and Andrew Feustel, the two astronauts aboard the international space station, answered many questions ranging from life as an astronaut, to what they do when they get bored, to how they do their laundry, to what do they eat, and why they became astronauts.

Over 40 people attended the live NASA downlink to witness and support these 20 children ask their questions, including parents, teachers, grandparents, and members of media networks.

“It was a well-attended celebration of man’s accomplishments and STEM learning”, says Tonya Blansett, Executive Director of TASM, “What better ways to celebrate man’s accomplishments than with live conversation with live astronauts.”





## Did You Know?

by Rachel Zsolnai

You can hardly make it through into the parking lot without noticing the enormous commercial aircraft, with the American Airlines symbols on it, in front of the Tulsa Air and Space Museum & Planetarium (TASM). This is our MD-80 Discovery Center, but did you know that it is more than just a display?

TASM's MD-80 was donated to the museum in 2014 by American Airlines. This aircraft flew continually for 26 years, making about 39,968 flights covering about 38 million miles and carrying approximately 5.5 million passengers.

While some of this aircraft has been kept in its original form/condition, the MD-80 Discovery Center has been remodeled inside in order to become a learning environment. During many school field trips, and at specific times throughout the day, groups of up to 28 visitors/students at a time can enter the flight theater inside the MD-80.

Inside the MD-80 lies a world of adventure and learning of the history of aircrafts, some hologram displays, and much more! The MD-80 Discovery Center can also be used to book events such as birthday parties and other small gatherings.

So the next time you stop by for a visit at TASM, don't forget to tour the MD-80 Discovery Center and it's free with Museum Admission!

# Upcoming Events and More!

## STEM Sumer Camps Are Here!

Don't miss out on our STEM Summer Camp opportunities! The first Summer Camp session, out of a total of six sessions, begins June 11<sup>th</sup>! Limited spaces are available, so sign up now on our website! Hope to see you there!



## Extended Hours For June!

TASM will be extending its Saturday hours for the month of June! The Saturdays in June will be the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> (NOT June 23<sup>rd</sup>). TASM will be open on those days from 10am-6pm! Don't miss out on this opportunity!