

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 18, 2013

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Museum of State Historical Society to Host Smithsonian Program on Oct. 13

PIERRE, S.D. – The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society will host a special webcast of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air & Space Museum program entitled “Star Trek’s Continuing Relevance” at 2 p.m. CDT on Sunday, Oct. 13, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The program takes place in the center’s education room. There is no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries.

Star Trek is not only popular, it’s important for current scholarship and industry. As a franchise, *Star Trek* has drawn upon real history for its narratives and influenced space history through its compelling depictions of a possible future.

In this educational and multimedia panel program, four presenters will offer brief compelling insights into how relevant *Star Trek* is today:

- Nancy Reagin, editor of *Star Trek and History* (2013), will describe the latest popular history scholarship included in this new book.
- Mike Gold, chief counsel at Bigelow Aerospace, will explain the parallels between the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM) being developed for the International Space Station and *Star Trek* events.
- Margaret Weitekamp of the Museum’s Space History department will show how the Museum’s *Star Trek* artifacts illuminate the social and cultural history of spaceflight.
- Dan Hendrickson, director for Space Systems, Aerospace Industries Association, will reveal why he spearheaded a crowd-sourced campaign, and partnered with the Challenger Center for Space Science Education to pay for ads promoting human spaceflight to show before new *Star Trek* film screenings.

“This is a great opportunity to enjoy a discussion that brings together history, popular culture and science fiction,” said Jay Smith, director of the Museum of the State Historical Society. “This is a fun topic that makes a serious point about the creative process both in the laboratory and on the screen, and how these processes impact our future.”

“Star Trek’s Continuing Relevance” was originally broadcast on May 16 from the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, DC.

The State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January and is the only one in South Dakota.

About Smithsonian Affiliations

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at <https://affiliations.si.edu>.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.