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Smithsonian Night Program at Cultural Heritage Center to Feature Space Junk and Hot Air Balloons

PIERRE, S.D. – A Smithsonian Night program is coming up Tuesday, July 21, at 7 p.m. CDT at the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society. This month's featured programs are entitled, "Space Junk: Fast Trash" and "Hot Air Balloons and Air Pressure" from the National Air & Space Museum.

"Space Junk: Fast Trash" explores the reality of millions of pieces of man-made debris floating around space. This debris causes potential problems for astronauts, satellites and other important pieces of equipment circling Earth. This fast-paced webcast will look at what's out there and how NASA keeps an eye on it.

"Hot Air Balloons and Air Pressure" discusses both hot and cool air, how balloons float and how a change in air pressure affects them.

These two programs were originally broadcast through the "STEM in 30" educational programming series.

"These are two fascinating and entertaining programs," said Museum Director Jay Smith. "The National Air & Space Museum does a great job of bringing complex scientific ideas into common understanding. The 'STEM in 30' programs are great ways for families to connect science with everyday life. The programs are designed for all ages."

Smithsonian Night programs are typically held the third Tuesday of each month. On these days, the Museum and Heritage Store at the Cultural Heritage Center are open from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., giving visitors additional time in the early evening to visit the facility. There is no fee to view the program in the education room, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries.

The South Dakota State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January 2013 and is the only affiliate in South Dakota.

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About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. 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 www.history.sd.gov for

more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

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>.