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## **October Smithsonian Saturday program at Cultural Heritage Center to focus on Sally Ride**

PIERRE, S.D. – The next Smithsonian Saturday program at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre will be held Saturday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m. CDT. It will focus on the effort to preserve artifacts and tell the story of astronaut Sally Ride.

The featured program is entitled, “Sally Ride: Curating Her Life.” It was originally broadcast by the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum on Oct. 6, 2015. There is no fee to attend this program, but regular admission fees apply to visit the museum exhibits.

The webcast is about celebrating the acquisition of the Sally K. Ride Collection of personal possessions and papers. The National Air and Space Museum presents a program focused on how Smithsonian curators seek to preserve the meaning of a person’s life and legacy, particularly that of a woman who is considered an iconic national hero.

Tam O’Shaughnessy, Ride’s partner in life and author of a new Ride biography, generously offered historians Valerie Neal and Margaret Weitekamp and archivist Patti Williams access to the papers and possessions of the first American woman in space. They discuss stories, objects and documents that trace the full arc of Ride’s life and represent her key achievements. They discuss the selected objects and papers that signify Ride, the public figure and private person, and how Ride’s story intersects with social and cultural themes of her era.

“We are really excited to offer this program,” said Jay Smith, museum director for the South Dakota State Historical Society. “Sally Ride is an iconic figure in the American space program whose story still provides great inspiration and character-building lessons.”

The next Smithsonian Saturday will be held Saturday, Nov. 12. The program will feature work being conducted on historical topics in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution.

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](http://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>.*