

ips 2026



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The U.S. Space & Rocket Center® is pleased to submit a bid to host the International Planetarium Society at our facility in Huntsville, Alabama, October 4 – 9, 2026.

Serving as a beacon to space enthusiasts worldwide, it is our mission to inspire the spirit of discovery in people of all ages. As the official visitor center for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and a Smithsonian Affiliate, the Rocket Center has shared America's rich space history since opening in 1970. Our expansive collection of space hardware includes more than 1,500 items, notably the National Historic Landmark Saturn V moon rocket, the Smithsonian Institute's largest artifact.

Beyond artifacts, the Rocket Center is a global leader in education. Our world-famous Space Camp® program has more than one million graduates from all 50 American states and almost 150 foreign locations, with many of those young people going on to become leaders in science, engineering, and technology. More than a dozen of the children who attended Space Camp have become astronauts.

A key component of both the Rocket Center's education program and its visitor experience is the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium. This state-of-the-art entertainment system includes five 4K RGB synchronized laser projectors, a NanoSeam screen, and surround sound to provide an immersive experience. Our planetarium staff is led by David Weigel, a renowned astrovizicist and astrophysicist who holds degrees from Furman University and Embry-



Riddle Aeronautical University. His team creates original live programming featuring immersive, data-driven visualizations. They present these programs to Space Camp students along with museum visitors daily as well as special programming for events and private showings. A local favorite is the weekly Cocktails & Cosmos series that explores discoveries in our universe and beyond using images captured by rovers on Mars and the latest from the James Webb Space Telescope.

Most recently, the planetarium hosted the 2022 Southeastern Planetarium Association Western Alliance Conference (SEPA-WAC).

Known as the Rocket City, Huntsville is one of the fastest growing cities in the Southeastern United States and was recently named the No. 1 city to live in America. Home to the fourth-largest research park in the world, Huntsville has the second highest concentration of PhDs per capita in the country. Its residents speak 100 languages and dialects and come from all over the world to work in the aerospace, defense, and biotech industries. That cultural diversity is infused in a community that is known not only for rockets but for its fine symphony orchestra, its large arts community, numerous museums, and a beautiful botanical garden. The city lies at the base of Monte Sano, on the southern Appalachian Plateau in the Appalachian Mountains. Along with hiking and biking trails, Monte Sano is home to the Von Braun Astronomical Society that owns and operates a planetarium constructed from a mock-up Saturn V fuel tank.

Huntsville is situated in one of our nation's most scenic locations and is within short driving distance to Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee. Just five hours south are the famous Gulf Coast white-sand beaches.

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is more than just a facility. It is a place where people of all ages are inspired to reach for the stars and fulfill their greatest potential. We would be honored to extend this reach and share our passion with your community by hosting IPS 2026.

We appreciate the consideration of our invitation by the IPS officers, board, and delegates.

Ad astra,

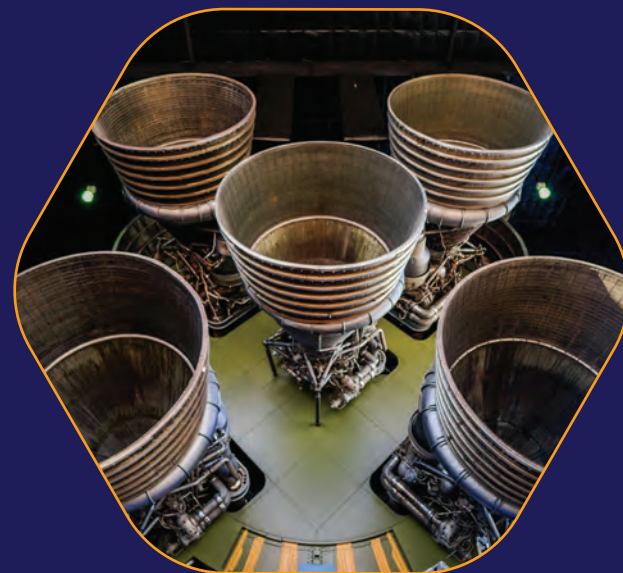


Dr. Kimberly Robinson
CEO and Executive Director
U.S. Space & Rocket Center



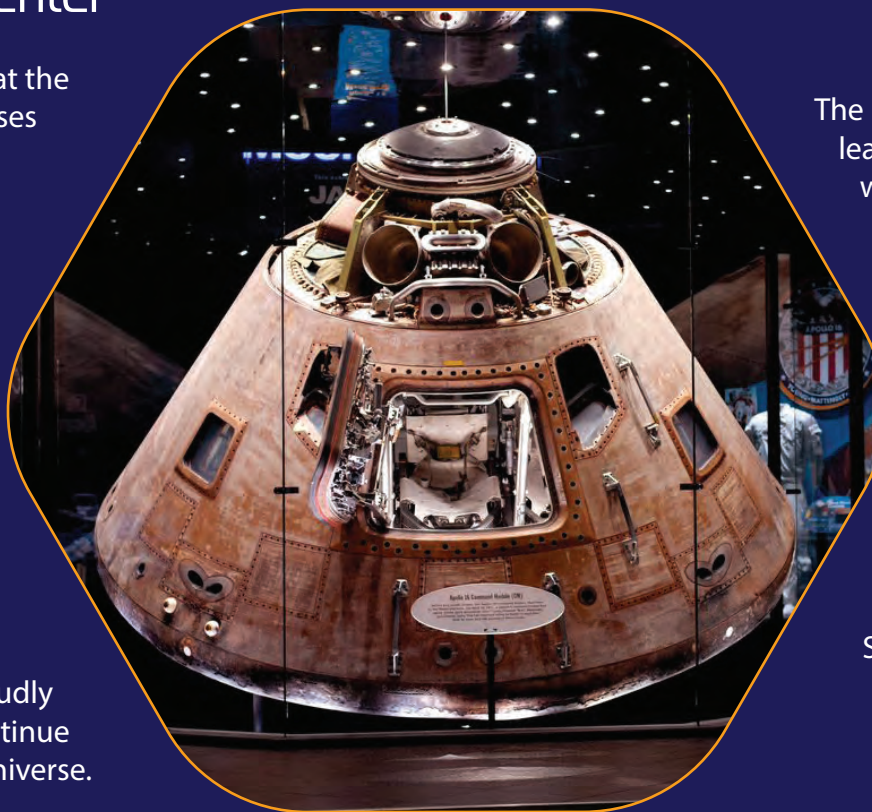
Why Us?

Along with thousands of space artifacts, including such significant pieces as the National Historic Landmark Saturn V rocket, the Apollo 16 capsule, and the Pathfinder Space Shuttle Stack, the Rocket Center includes numerous interactive exhibits. ISS: Science on Orbit shows visitors how astronauts are living and working aboard the International Space Station and Dare to Explore: Frontiers of Space showcases how NASA and industry are advancing space exploration today.



U.S. Space & Rocket Center

The *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium is located at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, which houses one of the largest collections of space hardware in the world. Featured are examples of Alabama's pioneering role in rocket propulsion and scientific discovery. Known as "The Rocket City," Huntsville was the leading development site for transforming ballistic missile technology to space-faring rockets in the 1950s and '60s. Today, Huntsville continues to lead in aerospace engineering, propulsion, energy, and space science, as well as cyber security and advanced manufacturing. The Rocket Center proudly highlights these technologies that continue to change our understanding of our universe.



The Rocket Center has been Alabama's leading tourist attraction for many years, with hundreds of thousands of visitors coming each year from all over the world. Typically, the Rocket Center hosts visitors from at least 80 countries each year.

But the Rocket Center is more than a museum and hands-on science center. It is the Official Visitor Information Center for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and is a National Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.



Space Camp

While the Rocket Center is one of the largest space science museums in the United States, globally the Rocket Center is known as the Home of Space Camp. More than one million have graduated from Space Camp programs, training like astronauts for futures in aerospace, defense, avionics, engineering, and science. Many have gone to space as astronauts for NASA, the European Space Agency, and as civilians. Primarily attended by young space enthusiasts between the ages of 9 and 18, Space Camp also offers options for adults, family groups, teachers, and corporate teams. These programs are bolstered by the full use of the Rocket Center's 400-acre campus including the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium. The Rocket Center delivers 22 distinct Space Camp programs and numerous museum-based educational explorations.

Educational experiences are grounded not only in the scientific moment of learning, but in highlighting educational pathways that lead to career tracks in critical STEM fields such as aerospace engineering, astronomy, navigation, cyber security, and additive manufacturing. Such flexibility in scale and topicality allows the Rocket Center to deliver targeted programming to students, tiered in age-and-grade-appropriate bands.



Each year, Space Camp programs typically welcome over 40,000 young people from 70 countries around the world. Rocket Center museum programs annually host over 20,000 school children for field trips, and more than 700 educators attend on-site professional development programs.



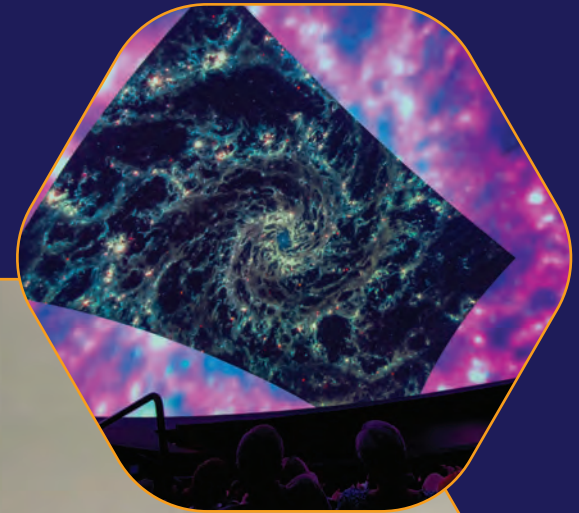
INTUITIVE® Planetarium

Of greatest interest to the IPS evaluation committee, of course, is the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium, which opened in 2019 with the generous support of Hal Brewer, the CEO of Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation. His gift enabled the Rocket Center to transform the former IMAX™ theater into a world-class 8k digital planetarium.

The *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium team creates live and interactive programs that feature real-time, immersive data visualizations. Put more simply, the planetarium team merges education and entertainment, customized for each audience to excite and inspire all ages with the latest space images. The *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium offers daily programming for Rocket Center museum guests and Space Camp attendees. The planetarium team is proud to produce and offer original content at a blistering rate, staying up to date with the latest astronomical discoveries. This is most apparent in a unique experience called Cocktails & Cosmos, a weekly evening event featuring an astronomy themed topic coupled with crafted cocktails.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Planetary Missions Program Office frequently contracts the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium to create multimedia productions for events such as International Observe the Moon Night, OSIRIS-REx Touch and Go, Psyche Mission Overview, and many more.

Most recently, the planetarium hosted the 2022 Southeastern Planetarium Association Western Alliance Conference to rave reviews from the attendees. The *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium team and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center are thrilled at the opportunity to welcome the greater planetarium community for IPS in 2026.



Our Team

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center boasts essential facilities and amenities for hosting conferences. Our capable staff, well-versed in assisting hundreds of guests daily, ensures a seamless experience. With a yearly influx of one million visitors from around the globe, the Rocket Center stands as a trusted destination. We provide on-site support teams for security, AV/IT, medical staff, catering, special events, and more.

The *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium has an established record of hosting successful conferences and events, such as the 2022 SEPA-WAC, which received rave reviews for outstanding facilities and programs. Alongside our staff's daily expertise in managing crowds of all sizes, we adeptly handle the logistics and technical aspects of any event. Additionally, attendees will have access to dedicated networking spaces, fostering an environment conducive to learning, collaboration, and meaningful connections.

We are committed to delivering an exceptional experience for all participants and ensuring that IPS 2026 is impactful and successful.



Rocket City, USA

Once known for cotton and watercress, Huntsville transformed from a small agricultural community to the cosmopolitan Rocket City thanks to the Apollo era and the development of the Saturn V moon rocket. Now the largest city in Alabama, U.S. News and World Report crowned Huntsville the No. 1 "Best Place to Live" in the United States in 2022.

Nearby Redstone Arsenal is home to numerous federal agencies, including NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the Missile Defense Agency, and the FBI. With a flourishing economy rooted in genomic research, automotive manufacturing, cyber security, and aerospace engineering, Huntsville stands at the forefront of technological innovation.

Its rich history in the space industry stretches back to the 1950s when the German scientist Wernher von Braun and his team pioneered the rocket that would launch America's first satellite. Their groundbreaking work continued with the development of the

Saturn V rocket. Since then, Huntsville has remained a vital hub for innovations in space exploration, playing an integral role in the success of numerous NASA missions, including the recent Artemis I mission.

Delegates attending the IPS 2026 conference will have the opportunity of visiting cultural attractions and many recreational areas. Huntsville has a large art community, including the sprawling Lowe Mill, the largest privately owned arts cooperative in the Southern United States. Musical offerings for locals and visitors range from the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra to concerts at the 6,000-seat Orion Amphitheater.

Huntsville's natural surroundings attract outdoor enthusiasts. The majestic Tennessee River presents an abundance of water recreation opportunities, where attendees can enjoy activities such as boating, fishing, and leisurely strolls along its scenic banks.

The city not only offers a dynamic and engaging experience for IPS 2026 participants, but also provides a blend of cultural and outdoor recreation. Monte Sano, a mountain in the southern Appalachian Plateau in the Appalachian Mountains, offers camping as well as numerous hiking and biking trails.



Space is for Everyone

For All Humankind

At the core of our Mission Statement lie the fundamental values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This mission resonates throughout our entire organization, encompassing our team, our work, and the outcomes we achieve.

Through our programming, we aim to demonstrate to campers and visitors that the success of our mission is intrinsically tied to diversity — encompassing different perspectives, experiences, cultures, and more. Space is an inclusive realm open to everyone, and the spirit of discovery unites us all, transcending financial means, skin color, faith, pronouns, physical abilities, or any of the countless beautiful variations that define humanity.

At the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, we are committed to fostering a conference

environment that embraces and celebrates diversity, promotes equity, and prioritizes inclusivity. We firmly believe that diverse perspectives and backgrounds deeply enrich the conference experience and contribute to meaningful discussions and outcomes. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive space where all attendees, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, religion, socioeconomic status, or any other dimension of diversity, feel welcomed, respected, and safe.

In our conference planning process, we are committed to seeking diverse representation among speakers, panelists, and workshop facilitators. We recognize the importance of including diverse perspectives in shaping the content and agenda of the conference, as well as in addressing the challenges and opportunities within our respective fields.

To facilitate an inclusive environment, we strive to provide accessible accommodations and resources for attendees with disabilities or different needs. We are committed to removing barriers and promoting equal opportunities for participation.

We encourage open dialogue, active listening, and respectful engagement among attendees, fostering an atmosphere of mutual understanding and collaboration.

Throughout the conference, we will promote an atmosphere that rejects discrimination, harassment, and bias. We expect all participants, including speakers, attendees, sponsors, and staff, to uphold the principles of respect, inclusivity, and professionalism as set forth in the IPS Code of Conduct. We encourage the reporting of any concerns or incidents that may violate these principles, and we are dedicated to addressing them promptly and appropriately.

By prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusivity in our conference planning, we aim to create a space that reflects the richness and diversity of our global community. We believe that embracing and valuing differences leads

to greater innovation, creativity, and collective growth. Together, we can foster an inclusive conference experience that empowers and inspires all attendees, creating a positive impact that extends beyond the event itself.



Huntsville Welcomes You!

Huntsville, Alabama is a city that embraces diversity and has a population characterized by a variety of ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds. Here are some key aspects of the community found in Huntsville:

LGBTQ+ Inclusivity: Huntsville has seen the emergence of LGBTQ+ friendly businesses and spaces, including LGBTQ+ owned businesses, bars, and social venues that provide a welcoming environment for the LGBTQ+ community.

These establishments contribute to creating safe spaces and fostering a sense of community. The community is supported by several organizations and advocacy groups that work to promote equality and acceptance. Pride events, parades, and festivals have become annual highlights, bringing together people of all sexual orientations and gender identities to celebrate. The resilience and determination of the LGBTQ+ community in Huntsville have contributed to a more accepting and supportive environment for all residents.

More information about the Rocket City's LGBTQ+ community can be found at: <https://www.rocketcitypride.com>.

Religious Diversity: Huntsville is home to a range of religious communities, including various Christian denominations, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and others. Places of worship representing different faiths can be found throughout the city.



International Community: Huntsville's diverse population includes individuals from countries around the world. The city attracts international talent and professionals due to its strong aerospace and defense industries, universities, research institutions, and technology sector. This contributes to a multicultural environment and fosters cross-cultural exchanges.



Safety: Huntsville's overall crime rates are low compared to national averages. The city has a dedicated police force that works to maintain public safety and respond to incidents. Huntsville also has well-established emergency services, including police, fire, and medical assistance. In combination with public safety initiatives, these efforts aim to enhance safety and foster a sense of security in the community.



Accessibility

Huntsville, a vibrant city known for its technological advancements and inclusive spirit, places a strong emphasis on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The city adheres to the strict standards outlined in the ADA, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can navigate premises



comfortably and conveniently. The city has worked to ensure that its infrastructure, facilities, and public spaces are accessible to individuals with disabilities. From sidewalks and streets to parks and recreational areas, Huntsville has made significant efforts to remove barriers and create a welcoming environment for everyone.

Building entrances are equipped with ramps and handrails, public transportation is designed to accommodate wheelchair users, and parking areas have accessible spaces available. Furthermore, businesses and establishments within the city have made substantial progress in providing accessible services and facilities to ensure equal access for all residents and visitors. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center campus is fully wheelchair accessible, equipped with accommodations such as elevators, ramps, railings, automatic doors, and accessible parking spaces.

We are equipped to provide various language accommodations upon request. These include braille materials, American Sign Language (ASL) services, available live captioning, and translator options.

Service animals are protected under U.S. federal law and allowed in any public space in Huntsville, Alabama. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center offers designated service animal and pet relief areas.

Family restrooms and mothers' rooms are located onsite.

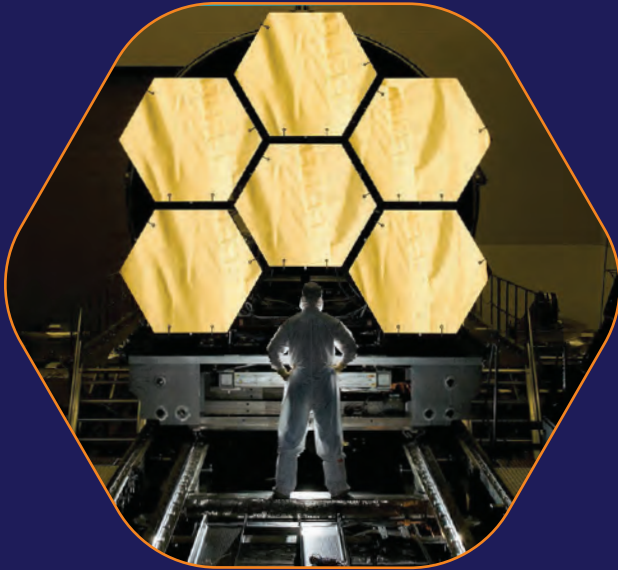


Dietary Preferences

At the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, we strive to ensure that all attendees' dietary needs are accommodated. We understand the importance of catering to food allergies and dietary restrictions, and our team is committed to providing suitable options for everyone. Vegan options will be available for meals, ensuring that those who follow a plant-based lifestyle can enjoy a variety of delicious dishes. Additionally, during breaks, we will offer a selection of snacks that cater to different dietary preferences and restrictions. Furthermore, to promote sustainability and hydration, we have conveniently placed water drinking fountains and water bottle refill stations around the campus. We encourage participants to bring their own water bottles to help reduce plastic waste!

With over 150 restaurants, Huntsville offers a plethora of food choices to cater to various dietary needs. Whether you prefer vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, kosher, or Halal options, you'll find a well-balanced selection of meals and local restaurants that can accommodate your specific diet. To help you discover these food options, Huntsville provides a valuable resource at <https://www.huntsville.org/restaurants-breweries/all/>, where you can explore and find restaurants that align with your dietary preferences.





attendees through a unique series of paper sessions. Moreover, the event will feature a comprehensive range of professional development activities to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to harness the potential of their careers. Additionally, the conference aims to explore innovative ways for planetariums to thrive in an ever-changing landscape, acknowledging the importance of adapting to technological advancements and evolving audience expectations.

Conference Goals

The Goal is to be Awesome

This conference aims to achieve several ambitious goals that will help shape the future of planetariums worldwide. First and foremost, it strives to elevate planetariums across the globe by promoting collaboration, knowledge exchange, and best practices.

In order to achieve this, the conference will provide an unprecedented platform for the presentation of high-caliber research and innovation at an IPS conference, offering several members the opportunity to deliver plenary presentations in front of all



To facilitate this, attendees will have the opportunity to network and connect with space industry leaders, including renowned institutions like NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), fostering collaboration and opening doors to potential partnerships. With a focus on establishing planetariums as primary communicators to the public regarding the exciting realm of space discovery, the conference will emphasize the vital importance of presenting current and accurate information, ensuring that planetariums remain at the forefront of disseminating cutting-edge knowledge to their audiences.

Schedule

Maximize Potential

IPS 2026 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center is scheduled for October 4-9, 2026, with the first full day of conference activities on the 5th.

Why October?

One of the primary reasons for selecting October is to ensure a unique and exclusive experience for IPS conference attendees. By hosting the conference during this time, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center can restrict public access to space camp and the museum. This arrangement allows conference participants to have a special and immersive experience that is not available to the general public.

Additionally, the chosen dates in October do not conflict with any major religious holidays or festivals, enabling a wider range of participants to attend without impediment.

The conference will take place entirely on one campus, conveniently located just a few miles away from the Huntsville International Airport and nearby hotels. This proximity ensures easy access for attendees traveling from various locations. Transportation will be available daily from select hotels to the Rocket Center campus, as well as a daily on-campus shuttle route.



The schedule has been thoughtfully designed such that all session locations are conveniently situated within a <10-minute walking distance, allowing attendees to transition smoothly between sessions without wasting much time. Our ample facility space allows us to minimize concurrent sessions, ensuring that attendees have a wider selection of sessions to attend without any scheduling conflicts.

We are introducing two exciting session types. The first is IPSx, inspired by TEDx events, where five IPS members will have the opportunity to present a plenary style session to all of the planetarians at the conference. This provides a platform for the sharing of industry-shaking ideas.

Secondly, we are pleased to offer planetarians the option to submit paper sessions for presentation in a dome setting. This enables a truer dome-to-dome style of sharing programs, concepts, and visualizations.

In order to maximize vendor time and efficiency, we have allocated the first two days specifically for showcasing vendors in the exhibit hall. Additionally, to streamline the vendor sessions, the number of vendor demo rotation groups will be limited to two.

To provide extra vendor dome time at minimal cost, movie slots will be incorporated in the planetarium during the evening after normal activities. This provides a unique opportunity for attendees to view a variety of fulldome screenings in the planetarium.

Fulldome Festival Schedule

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Time	Event	Location
12:00	Fulldome Festival Check-in	Rocket Center
18:00	Fulldome Festival Opening	Rocket Center

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Time	Event	Location
9:00	Fulldome Festival Check-in	Rocket Center
10:00	Fulldome Festival Start	Rocket Center

Friday, October 2, 2026

Time	Event	Location
9:00	Fulldome Festival Check-in	Rocket Center
10:00	Fulldome Festival Start	Rocket Center

Business Meetings Schedule

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:45	IPS Check-in	Rocket Center
9:00	IPS Business Meetings	Rocket Center
9:00	User groups	Rocket Center
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	IPS Business Meetings / User Groups	Rocket Center

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:45	IPS Check-in	Rocket Center
9:00	IPS Business Meetings	Rocket Center
9:00	User groups	Rocket Center
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	IPS Business Meetings / User Groups	
18:00	Opening Reception - Keynote	Rocket Park

Conference Schedule

Monday, October 5, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:00	IPS Check-in	SPOC Atrium
9:00	General Meeting	SPOC Auditorium
10:30	Break	SPOC Atrium
10:45	IPSx	SPOC Auditorium
11:45	Break	SPOC Atrium
12:00	Breakout Rooms	SPOC Classrooms
13:00	Lunch / Vendor Hall	Davidson Center
15:00	Workshop 1	
16:00	Sponsor Sessions	Planetarium/ Nat Geo Theater
17:00	Vendor Hall	Davidson Center
18:00	Potential Sponsorship Dinner	TBD
20:00	Sponsor Sessions	Planetarium/Nat Geo Theater
22:00	Movie Time	Planetarium/Nat Geo Theater

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:00	IPS Check-in	SPOC Atrium
9:00	IPS x	SPOC Auditorium
10:00	Break	SPOC Atrium
10:15	Workshops/Panels	
11:45	Break	
12:00	Paper Sessions	
13:00	Lunch / Vendor Hall	Davidson Center
15:00	Paper Sessions	
17:00	Vendor Hall	Davidson Center
18:00	Potential Sponsorship Dinner	TBD
20:30	Sponsor Sessions	Planetarium / Nat Geo Theater
22:30	Movie Time	Planetarium / Nat Geo Theater

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:00	Mid-week trip check-in	SPOC Atrium
8:30	Breakfast Keynote	SPOC Auditorium
10:00	Board Buses for Mid-week Trips	Various
	Vendor Teardown	Davidson Center
17:00	Potential Sponsorship Dinner	TBD
19:00	Dome-a-oke	Planetarium / Nat Geo Theater
22:30	Movie Time	Planetarium / Nat Geo Theater

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:00	IPS Check-in	SPOC Atrium
9:00	IPSx	SPOC Auditorium
10:00	Break	
10:15	Vendor Demo	SPOC Auditorium
12:00	Lunch / Meet a Docent	Davidson Center
15:00	Featured Speaker	SPOC Auditorium
16:00	Paper Sessions	
19:00	Dinner	TBD
21:00	Music of the Spheres	Planetarium
22:30	Movie Time	Planetarium / Nat Geo Theater

Friday, October 9, 2026

Time	Event	Location
8:00	IPS Check-in	SPOC Atrium
9:00	IPSx	SPOC Auditorium
10:00	Break	SPOC Atrium
10:15	Paper Sessions / Workshops	
12:00	Awards Lunch / Remembrance	Pathfinder
13:30	Regional Session Time	
18:00	Break	
19:30	Closing Banquet and Speaker	Saturn V Hall

Post-Conference Trips Schedule

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Time	Event	Location
9:00	Post-Conference trip check-in	Rocket Center
9:30	Post-Conference trip departures	Various

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Time	Event	Location
	Post-Conference trips continue	Various

Locations

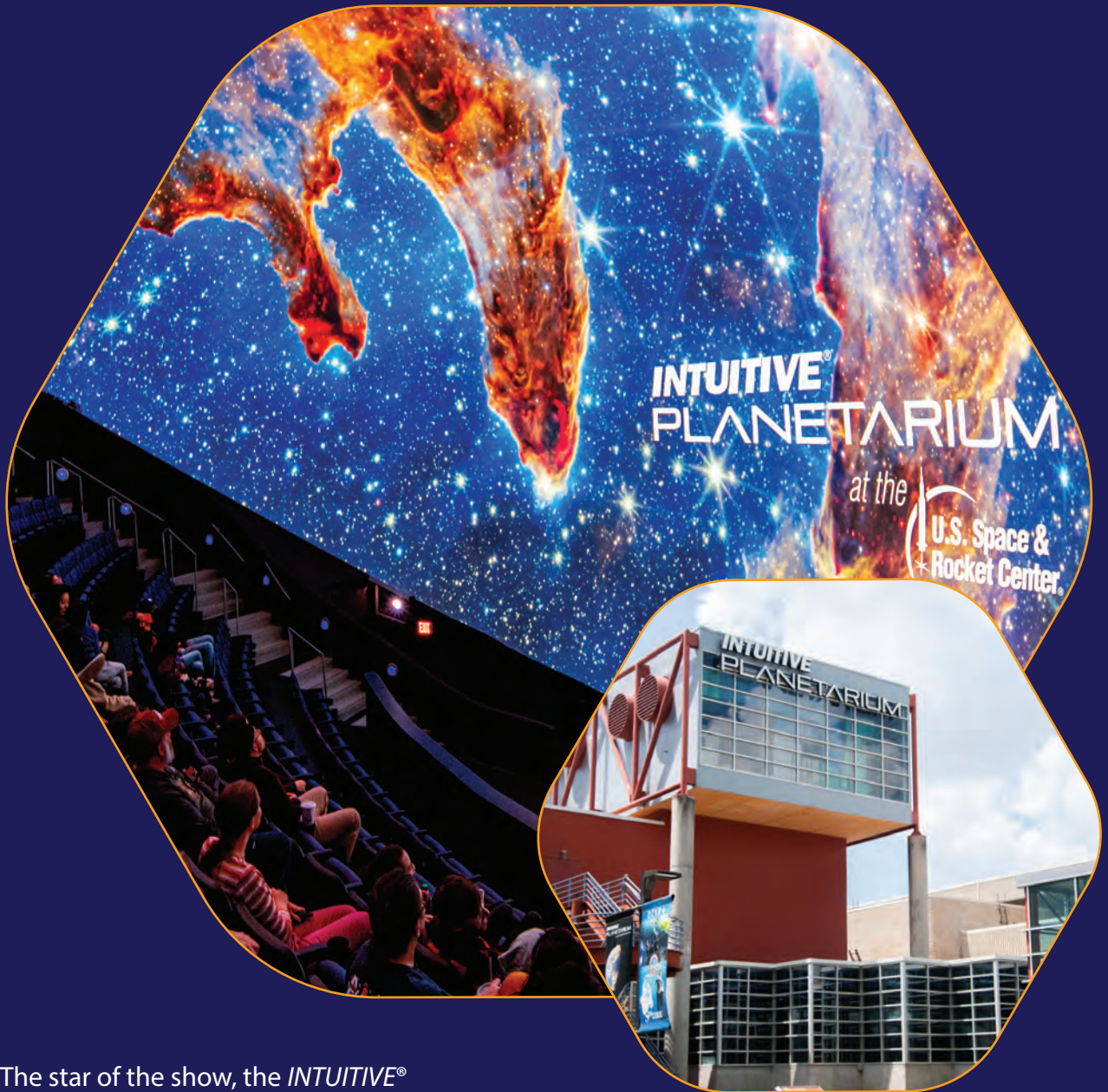
INTUITIVE® Planetarium

Opened February 28, 2019 after renovations to the facility that was previously the IMAX Spacedome Theater, the 67ft (21m) *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium features an Evans & Sutherland ESX Giant Dome Cinema System. The dome itself is tilted 30 degrees and features a Spitz NanoSeam screen. Unidirectional, stepped seating for 248 guests provides an unobstructed screen view for all visitors.

A/V Tech Specs

- o Fulldome Digital Projection
 - 5 Christie D4K40-RGB projectors
 - 60 fps, 30k lumens each
 - Blend for 8k resolution
- o Software:
 - Evans and Sutherland Digistar 7
- o Sound System
 - 5.1 Surround Speakers

The star of the show, the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium will be used daily for paper sessions, vendor demonstrations, and a variety of dome fun.



Davidson Center for Space Exploration: Saturn V Hall

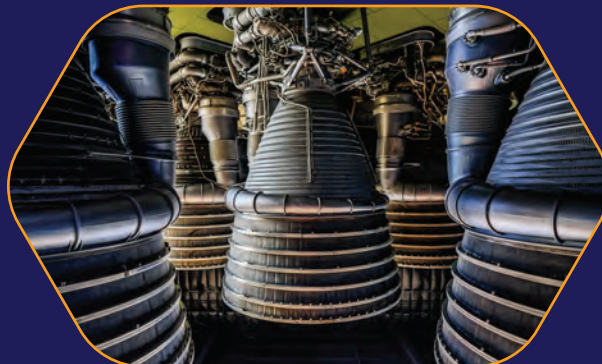
The National Historic Landmark – an authentic Saturn V rocket – one of only three in the world, is in the Saturn V Hall of the Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Here, our guests journey through America's Space Race, NASA's plan to put man on the moon, Skylab, and the International Space Station.

The Saturn V Hall is a premier event space, including a 30-foot digital video wall and room for up to 1,000 guests to dine beneath one of mankind's greatest scientific achievements.

This is our proposed exhibit hall space and will be the Closing Gala location.

A/V Tech Specs:

- o 30x17ft Video Wall
 - 1920x1080 resolution
 - HDMI input
- o PTZ Camera w/ Switcher
- o 4 Wireless Handheld Microphones
- o Audio Interface



National Geographic Theater

The National Geographic Theater, located inside the Davidson Center for Space Exploration, accommodates up to 350 guests to view the 52-foot screen.

The National Geographic Theater will likely undergo renovations prior to IPS 2026. We currently plan to make use of this space for flat screen vendor demonstrations and movies.

A/V Tech Specs:

- o National Geographic Theater Projection System
 - 3840 x 2160 resolution
 - HDMI input
- o PTZ Camera w/ Switcher
- o 4 Wireless Handheld Microphones
- o Audio Interface



Space Camp Operations Center

The Space Camp Operations Center, sponsored by Boeing, elevates the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Space Camp programs with its expansive lobby, state-of-the-art classrooms and labs, and collaborative learning spaces. This stunning facility will help inspire the spirit of discovery in generations of explorers to come.

The 40,600-square-foot facility contains 10 classrooms for rocketry construction, advanced manufacturing, and Space Camp Robotics programming. These classrooms are outfitted with state-of-the-art technology that will allow campers to take a deeper dive into space and cyber education with hands-on experiences using the latest technology.

The Space Camp Operations Center Auditorium will be used for plenary style presentations where we want to fit the entire IPS conference attendance in a single space.

The classroom spaces will be allocated for use in the various breakout sessions like workshops, panels, and paper sessions.

The atrium will be available daily for IPS attendee check in.

A/V Tech Specs:

- o Rooms are equipped with projectors or large video displays
 - 3840 x 2160 resolution
 - HDMI input
- o PTZ Camera w/ Switcher
- o 4 Wireless Handheld Microphones
- o Audio Interface





Discovery Theater

This 100-seat theater with a stage is great for live presentations, movies, or meetings.

A/V Tech Specs:

- o Discovery Theater Projection System
 - 1920 x 1200 resolution
 - HDMI input
- o PTZ Camera w/ Switcher
- o 4 Wireless Handheld Microphones
- o Audio Interface



Educator Training Facility

This facility includes classroom-style rooms as well as a larger, stadium-seating auditorium for presentations. Both are equipped with Laser DLP projectors and drop-down screens. For larger groups, the two rooms are separated by a movable wall which may be retracted to add 50 fixed seats to the back of the auditorium.

A/V Tech Specs:

- o ETF Classroom/Auditorium Projection System
 - 1920 x 1080 resolution
 - HDMI input
- o PTZ Camera w/ Switcher
- o 4 Wireless Handheld Microphones



Closing Gala

Dine under the Saturn V

Attendees will have the opportunity to experience a unique closing ceremony banquet under the majestic Saturn V rocket, an iconic symbol of human exploration and scientific achievement. Surrounded by space artifacts, you will indulge in exquisite cuisine and fine wine. A keynote speaker will join us to celebrate the past, present, and future of human ingenuity regarding space exploration.

While attending the conference is a valuable experience in itself, we want to add this special touch. Therefore, please note that the banquet will be offered at an additional cost, ensuring an elevated level of service and a truly unforgettable evening.



A large, light blue hexagon with rounded corners is centered on a dark blue background. Inside the hexagon, the words "Mid-week" and "Trips" are written in a white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically and centered.

Mid-week
Trips

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) is a modern museum that serves as a connection to the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, a collection of sites important to the Civil Rights Movement in America. Visitors can experience a model of a segregated city in the 1950s, as well as examine a replica of a Freedom Riders bus and even the actual jail cell door from behind which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. penned his famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” The institute is also home to an expansive archive of documents from the Civil Rights Movement and nearly 500 recorded oral histories relevant to the period. Nearby stops include sites along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.





Jack Daniel's Distillery

Need we say more? Visit the oldest registered distillery in the U.S. and the place where every bottle of Jack Daniel's Whiskey is still made to-day. Enjoy a guided tour of the distillery and learn the story of Jack Daniel and how he created his famous whiskey. After the tour, shop and dine in restored buildings in the historic town of Lynchburg, Tennessee.

Cathedral Caverns

Only 45 minutes from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Cathedral Caverns hosts impressive natural features including "Goliath," one of the largest stalagmites in the world measuring 45 feet tall and 243 feet in circumference, as well as the world's largest commercial cave entrance which is 126 feet wide and 25 feet high. Inside the cave, explore beautiful stalagmites and stalactites that give the cave its name due to their cathedral-like appearance. Around the cave there are hiking trails, picnic and camp sites at Cathedral Caverns State Park as well as gemstone mining activities for children to enjoy.



Muscle Shoals, Alabama

Legendary musicians such as Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Cher, and Bob Dylan have all recorded music at the iconic Muscle Shoals Sound Studio which opened in 1969. Although the building was abandoned in the late 1990s, it has been restored again to a fully functioning recording studio and is open for tours that appeal to music enthusiasts across the world.

Legendary musical heritage

While in Muscle Shoals, visit the Helen Keller House to see the home of an American author and educator who was completely blind and deaf. The home and museum are highlighted by hundreds of Miss Keller's personal mementos, books, and gifts from her lifetime of travel and lectures in 25 countries for the betterment of the world's blind and deaf-blind community.



Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail

The Robert Trent Jones (RTJ) Golf Trail is a collection of eleven championship caliber golf courses, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Distributed across the state of Alabama, two of these courses host events on the LGPA Tour. The Hampton Cove complex in Huntsville has 3 courses in a river-valley setting surrounded by mountains. A spacious clubhouse contains a golf shop and dining room, overlooking the courses. The 18-hole Highland Course and 18-hole River Course, which encompasses 26 ponds, have Bent grass greens. The 18-hole Short Course is on a par 3 layout.



Climbing / Paddling Tours

Explore Alabama's rich biodiversity up close during a guided climbing or kayaking tour. Nicknamed "America's Amazon," Alabama houses enough miles of rivers to circle the Earth 5 times! Catch a glimpse of fish, turtles, mussels, and crayfish in some of the most biologically diverse waterways in the world, all while learning about the integral role waterways play in the environment. If you would rather stay on land, rock climbing is a popular pastime to experience the geologic diversity of Alabama. Try your hand at scaling some of the most ancient features of the area.



Post Conference Trips

Nashville Country Music Tour

If cities had a soundtrack, Nashville's would be a mix of music's past, present, and future with cuts of country, bluegrass, rock, pop, Americana, gospel, classical, and blues, all blending in perfect harmony. With music and entertainment around every corner, friends and family can enjoy the sounds that make this town "The Music City." Nashville is a destination that encourages musicians to play all day, every day.



Add some excitement to your vacation by checking out the nightlife in Nashville. Take in free live music at one of the many Honky Tonks, sip on a craft cocktail at a rooftop bar, or see one of your favorite bands perform a sell-out show. There is no wrong way to spend your Nashville nights.

Curious to know where Elvis and Dolly Parton recorded their biggest hits or how a song is recorded? Learn about Nashville's musical past and present at one of

the city's many music-themed attractions ranging from historic recording studios and backstage tours of world-famous music venues to one of America's oldest working letterpress shops and even a bus tour serenaded by a local songwriter.



Adult Space Academy

Always wanted to be an astronaut? We have a camp for you! Adult Space Academy is an adventurous, weekend experience allowing campers to assume roles in hands-on, interactive space missions and learn what it takes to be an astronaut.

Space Camp has been helping inspire the next generation of explorers for more than 40 years. This internationally known program with more than 1,000,000 alumni is based on NASA astronaut training and focuses on teamwork and leadership skills. Launched in 1982, Space Camp has inspired and motivated young people from around the country, and later the world, with attendees from all 50 states, U.S. territories and more than 150 foreign countries.

The adventurous have the option to try out the astronaut training simulators, featuring the spinning Multi-Axis Trainer and the Aviation Challenge Flight Simulators, which recreate the experiences that astronauts have in microgravity.



Visas

The United States is one of the most widely traveled countries in the world. The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows visitors from 40 different participating countries to enter the USA for business or tourism for up to 90 days without a visa.

The list of countries that participate in this program can be found at <https://www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program-requirements>.

Eligibility to travel under the VWP can be applied for through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) at <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/esta>. This program is similar to the ETIAS of the European Union and the eTA of Canada. The application fee is \$21 and takes about 23 minutes to complete.

For anyone required to obtain a visa or with any travel questions the team at the Rocket Center is happy to help, provide letters of invitation or any other documents an IPS Member might need to attend.



Travel



To Huntsville

Huntsville International Airport (HSV) is less than a 15-minute drive to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and downtown Huntsville. It offers nonstop service to ten US cities, including Atlanta, GA.

Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), located in Atlanta, GA, is the busiest airport in the world. About a 4-hour drive from Huntsville, connecting flights make the hop over to Huntsville International Airport (HSV).

Nashville International Airport (BNA) is located in Nashville, TN, roughly a 2-hour drive north of Huntsville and offers connecting flights to Huntsville.



Around Huntsville

All the conference events will be on campus at the Rocket Center. The entire campus can be crossed from one end to the other in 20 minutes or less. Most events will be within a five to ten-minute walk. Transportation around campus will be available on-site for those who may need it. The Rocket Center will also provide buses running on a loop between several of the hotels in the area and the Rocket Center.

For those wishing to explore the city there are a few options:

Bus

Huntsville's bus system, Orbit, operates Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There are 10 routes the buses travel on with one-way fares of \$1 as of June 2023. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and children under 6. More information on Orbit can be found at <https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/residents/streets/public-transportation/orbit/>.

Uber/Lyft

Both Uber and Lyft offer taxi services throughout the Huntsville Metro area.

<https://www.lyft.com/rider/cities/huntsville-al>

<https://www.uber.com/global/en/cities/huntsville-al/>

Weather

Weather Safety

Fortunately, tornadoes, the largest weather threat in northern Alabama, should not be a concern during the conference. While tornadoes are a possibility in this region, their peak season occurs in March, April, and May, well before the scheduled conference in October.

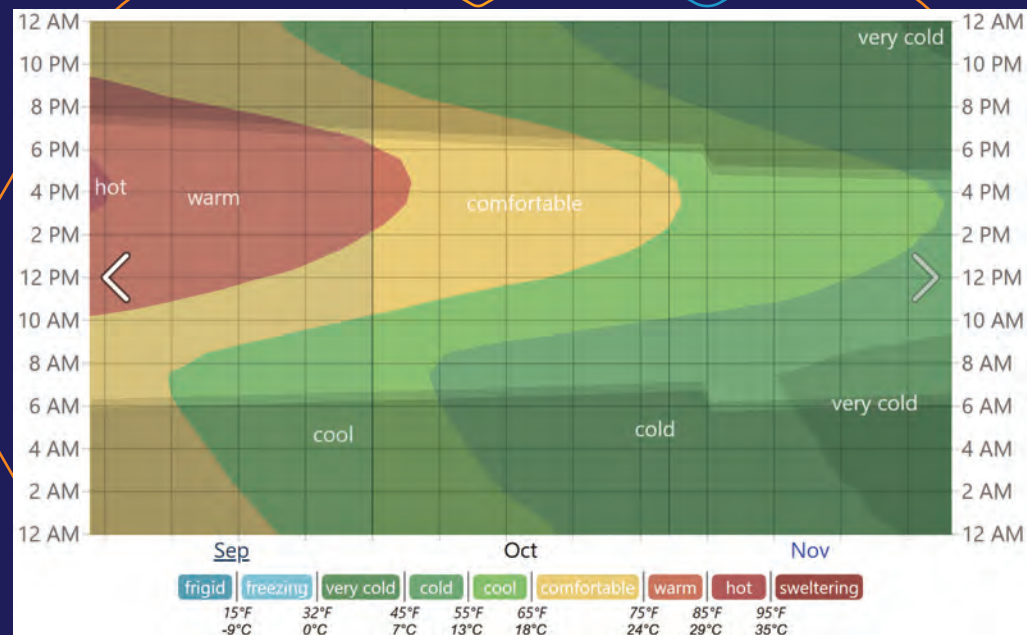
Moreover, in the event of an emergency, the US Space & Rocket Center is well-prepared with multiple tornado shelters capable of accommodating large groups of people. This ensures the safety and well-being of all participants, further alleviating any concerns related to severe weather. With the combination of beautiful autumn weather and appropriate safety measures in place, attendees can focus on the conference content and enjoy their time in Huntsville, Alabama.

Climate

Huntsville is a humid subtropical climate characterized by hot and humid summers, and cool to mild winters. Autumn brings some of the most comfortable months for Huntsville.

Drops in temperature bring the average daily high temperature down to 75 degrees F (24 C), meaning comfortable to warm days between cool mornings and evenings.

October also has the lowest monthly precipitation level with an average of only 3.59 inches (9.11cm) of rain! Humidity steeply drops during the Fall season, with only a 10-15% chance of having a "muggy" day in early October.



Places to Stay

Space Camp Hab 3

Stay on-site with us in our Aviation themed habitat! The rooms are hostel-style. Breakfast and transportation to and from the main Rocket Center campus is included.
Cost: 87 USD

Hotels

If you're seeking more affordable options without compromising on quality, budget-friendly hotels in the vicinity of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center cater to your needs. Enjoy comfortable rooms with thoughtful amenities, such as complimentary breakfast and Wi-Fi, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable stay for all guests. Staying near the U.S. Space & Rocket Center not only offers convenience but also allows you to maximize your time exploring its fascinating exhibits and attractions. The hotels' proximity to

other notable Huntsville attractions provides the opportunity to further explore the area. Discover the beauty of the Huntsville Botanical Garden, stroll through historic downtown Huntsville, or visit other renowned museums that showcase the city's rich heritage. Experience the perfect blend of comfort, convenience, and southern charm as you create lasting memories in the heart of Alabama's scenic beauty.

Huntsville Marriott

The closest hotel to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Marriott offers rooms with a view of the Saturn V rocket. This hotel offers many amenities, from free Wi-Fi and a restaurant to laundry services.

Average Cost

Single: 242 - 292 USD

Double: 242 - 265 USD



Drury Inn and Suites

Right across the street from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, this highly rated pet-friendly hotel offers relaxed rooms with warm décor and complimentary breakfast, with many other amenities available.

Average Cost

Single: 165 - 175 USD

Double: 165 - 175 USD



Holiday Inn Express and Suites

Under 2 miles from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Holiday Inn is a modern hotel with a prime location, just a short distance from many shopping centers and downtown Huntsville.

Average Cost

Single: 202 - 239 USD

Double: 184 - 239 USD

Hilton Garden Inn

Just down the road from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, under 2 miles away, the Hilton Garden Inn offers an outdoor pool to relax by, with a restaurant to dine in, or a convenience store to grab a snack from.

Average Cost

Single: 219-256 USD

Double: 219-256 USD

Hampton Inn Suites Research Park

Located 3 miles from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Hampton Inn is a short distance from the Bridge Street Town Centre, which includes many different shopping centers and restaurants. This relaxed hotel offers amenities such as hot breakfast, an outdoor pool, and a 24/7 business center.

Average Cost

Single: 180-200 USD

Double: 175-195 USD



Hyatt Place Research Park

Set among commercial plazas, this relaxed hotel is 3 miles from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Located right by the Bridge Street Town Centre, this hotel is also a short drive to MidCity District, which boasts a variety of venues, restaurants, and plenty of areas to explore.

Average Cost

Single: 171-181 USD

Double: 171-181 USD

The Westin/The Element

Located in Bridge Street Town Centre, the Westin is a 4 star hotel, within walking distance of many restaurants, stores, and a movie theater. Just a short drive to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, about 3 miles, the Westin is a prime choice for those who like to stay in style.

Average Cost

Single: 251-278 USD

Double: 251-278 USD

Curio Collection, 106 Jefferson Huntsville

Residing in the heart of downtown Huntsville, 106 Jefferson is within walking distance from many local bars and eateries. Slightly further than other hotels to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center at around 5 miles, this sleek hotel offers a trendy rooftop restaurant that features quirky artwork, a bar, a terrace and city views.

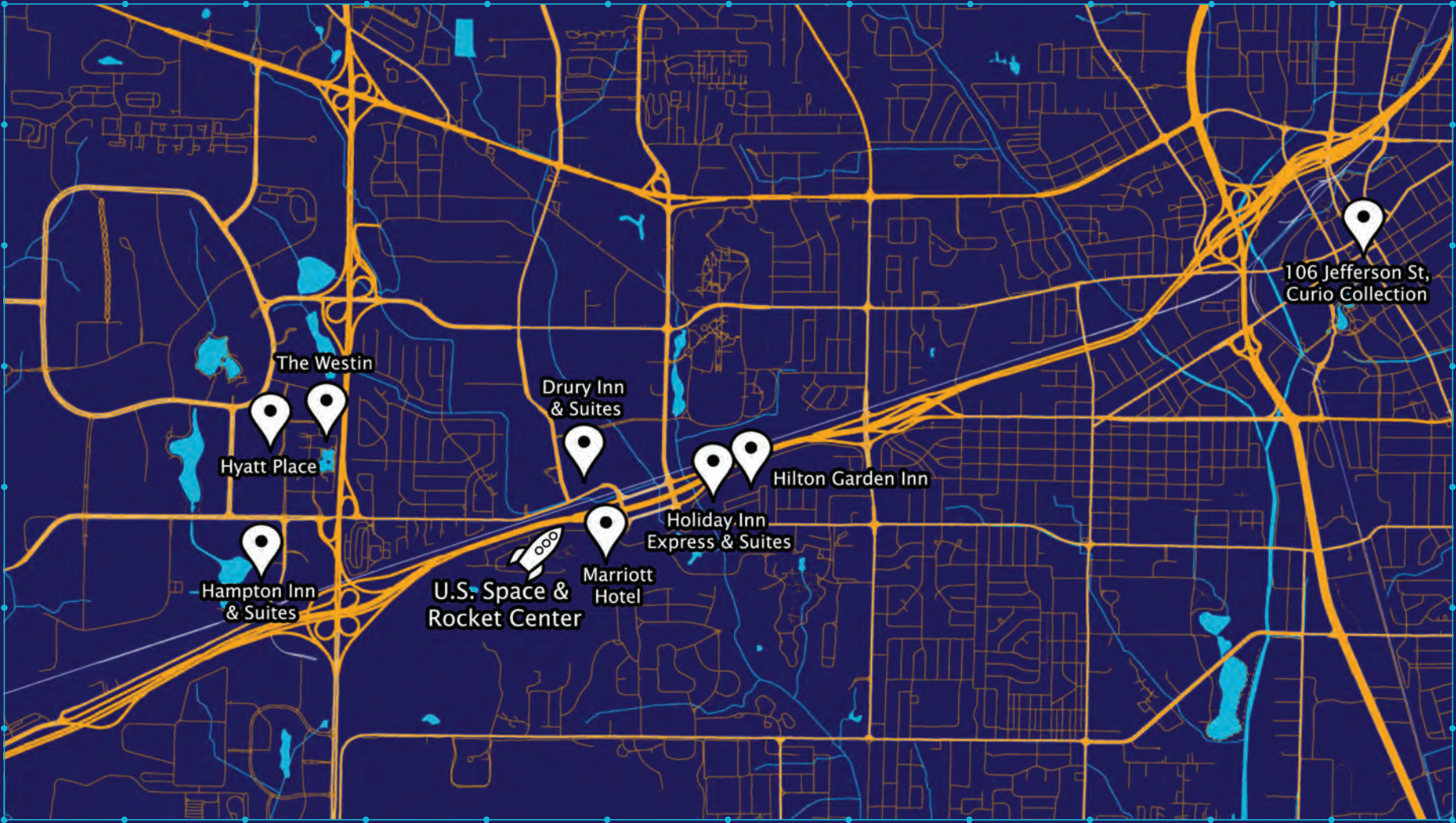
Average Cost

Single: 242-250 USD

Double: 242-250 USD



Hotel Map



Space Camp at IPS

We are excited to present our childcare options, which include two teams each in Space Camp and Space Camp Academy, offered at discounted rates. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Space Camp programs are highly regarded worldwide and have fostered the growth of numerous scientists, engineers, and active astronauts. Rest assured, your children will be in capable hands, staying on-site in our Space Camp habitats!

The Space Camp program is specifically designed to provide 9- to 11-year-olds with a glimpse into authentic astronaut training. Utilizing equipment adapted from NASA programs, camp participants learn invaluable problem-solving skills and the art of collaboration, cultivating essential 21st-century abilities. Engaging in hands-on scientific and technological activities, children gain practical knowledge by

exploring real-world applications, such as designing a Martian colony and embarking on simulated space missions to the International Space Station and beyond.

For kids 12-14, the Space Academy program takes the experience to the next level. Engineering challenges await, including rocket design and the development of heat shields for spacecraft re-entry. Trainees immerse themselves in the current pursuits and historical achievements of NASA, aerospace engineering, and astronomy.

Childcare



Emphasizing teamwork, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving, both camps equip kids and teenagers with skills that will prove invaluable throughout their educational journey and professional careers.

These Space Camp programs will run throughout the conference (October 4-9).



Things to Do in Huntsville

More than just rockets...

Huntsville has activities for families, kids, and adults!

A variety of outdoor spaces make Huntsville great for those who enjoy the great outdoors. There are over 34 miles of hiking and biking trails in Monte Sano State Park, with spectacular vistas from atop the mountain, especially when the fall leaves show off their colors. Take a stroll along the Tennessee River at Ditto Landing Marina or try one of our ten disc golf courses around the city.

For a more relaxed outdoor visit, check out the 118-acre Huntsville Botanical Gardens or the 3,000 ft outlook at Burritt on the Mountain, high above the city of Huntsville. Join the Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS) for an evening of night-sky viewing on top of the mountain at the VBAS Planetarium.

Huntsville has more than 150 local restaurants, bars, and eateries with a wide variety of flavors, including traditional southern food and international influences. Huntsville has a thriving craft beer and cocktail scene including the Yellowhammer and Straight to Ale breweries. Coffee roasters and shops find success here, too, including locally owned Piper and Leaf and Gold Sprint Coffee Shops.

Nearby Nashville, TN and Muscle Shoals, AL, Huntsville makes up part of the Americana Music Triangle. You will find live music and concerts in many bars, restaurants, and outdoor spaces around town, especially in our four Arts and Entertainment Districts.

Its proximity to other major metropolitan areas like Birmingham, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Nashville makes for enjoyable day trips.



Campus 805

Refashioned from a historic schoolhouse, Campus No. 805 is the South's premier brewery and entertainment venue, featuring brewery, restaurant, retail, and entertainment spaces, as well as a 13-acre urban park. Dedicated to creating premium ales and lagers, Yellowhammer Brewing draws on Belgian and German brewing traditions with a Southern interpretation at its 11,000-square-foot facility in West Huntsville.

Orion Amphitheater

The Orion Amphitheater marks a bold new chapter in our region's unparalleled musical history. This 8,000-capacity destination venue was built by the people of Huntsville, for the people of Huntsville. With its proximity to the iconic Muscle Shoals Sound Studio, Huntsville enjoys its status as part of the Americana Music Triangle, known for its cultural achievement as the birthplace of one of our country's greatest exports, music - particularly blues, soul, and rock'n'roll.



Trash Pandas - Baseball Stadium

Toyota Field is home of the Trash Pandas baseball team. It is a state-of-the-art facility with versatile spaces from climate-controlled indoor rooms to large open areas. We could host a picnic, movie under the stars, or telescopes at Toyota Field!

Huntsville Botanical Garden

The Huntsville Botanical Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 118 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats, and stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment.



Big Spring International Park

Big Spring International Park is celebrated as the historic heart of Huntsville, which has been growing around this green space for over 200 years. Guests will love the friendly ducks, geese and koi that call the park home. Throughout the park, and you will find a bench from the United Kingdom, a sundial from Germany, and the iconic cherry trees and red bridge which were a gift to the city of Huntsville from Japan.

Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment

Explore the work of local artists at Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment, the largest privately owned arts facility in the south. With a focus on visual artists and makers, this historic textile mill has been redeveloped into a vibrant facility with 152 working studios for over 200 artists, makers, and independent businesses, 7 galleries, a theatre, a community garden, and event spaces.

Cook Museum of Natural Science

The Cook Museum of Natural Science is a state-of-the-art natural science museum in downtown Decatur, AL. It provides a hands-on, immersive experience where kids can explore, interact with, and learn about nature. Explore aspects of natural science such as caves, oceans, forests, and even outer space!



Huntsville Museum of Art

The Museum's 75,034 square foot facility is located in Downtown Huntsville and includes fourteen galleries. The permanent collection of the Huntsville Museum of Art is primarily focused on 19th and 20th century American art with an emphasis on art from the Southeast. African, Asian, and European art is the Museum's secondary collecting focus. The collection holds ~400 works on paper by American artists such as James McNeill Whistler, Reginald Marsh, John Sloan, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol.



Monte Sano State Park

Monte Sano, Spanish for "mountain of health," rises more than 1,600 feet above sea level. Atop Monte Sano Mountain, the park's 340 acres feature 14 rustic cottages, picnic areas, the Japanese Garden, hiking trails, the VBAS planetarium, an outdoor amphitheater, primitive camping areas, and an RV campground. Monte Sano Lodge can be booked for meetings and special events. Monte Sano State Park also offers cabins and pavilion rentals.



Burritt on the Mountain

This unique museum of regional history is located at the mountaintop home of Dr. William Henry Burritt. The remarkable 14-room mansion built in the 1930s in the shape of an X is insulated with 2,200 bales of wheat straw. The Historic Park features restored farm buildings which interpret 19th century rural life in Alabama. A nature trail winds through a heavily wooded forest.

The grounds, open year-round, offer a breathtaking panoramic view of Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley. On a clear day you can see the Tennessee River and the towering NASA rocket test stands. For adults, enjoy "Cocktails at The View" every Wednesday night.

Von Braun Astronomical Society Planetarium and Observatories

Huntsville, AL

VBAS members and guest speakers present a variety of astronomy related programs in the planetarium every Saturday at 7:30 pm for the public and by special arrangement for groups at other times. These presenter led programs are projected onto a dome with three HD digital projectors. Most presentations are developed locally and in-house by individual presenters. Each show includes a "star show" using a Spitz A3P Planetarium Projector to project the current night sky's stars onto the dome, where you will learn to find some of the key constellations visible that night.

Weather permitting, guests will have the opportunity to look at some of the wonders of the universe via telescopes following the planetarium program with the help of an experienced and knowledgeable observing crew!



Sudekum Planetarium Adventure Science Center

Nashville, TN

For over 75 years, Adventure Science Center has been bringing science to life for students, teachers, and families in Middle Tennessee and across the U.S. The Science Center offers engaging learning experiences and science fun through hands-on, interactive exhibits, innovative programs, and full-dome productions in the state-of-the-art Sudekum Planetarium.

Sudekum Planetarium is a 63-foot dome theater with an unparalleled projection system. Shows include planetarium shows, laser shows, and featured events like concerts.



Christenberry Planetarium

Birmingham, AL

Samford's Boyd E. Christenberry Planetarium opened in 2001 and provides visitors a unique opportunity to explore our universe. Their goal is to bring knowledge about space and science in an interactive and engaging manner and to make science as fun as it should be. This 40-ft diameter dome seats 96 people and offers programming for college students and occasional live programming for the public.



Budget

Registration (includes tax, meals, and service charges)

	Early Bird Member	Early Bird Non-Member	Regular Member	Regular Non-Member	Late Member	Late Non-Member
Participant	\$375.00	\$475.00	\$425.00	\$525.00	\$475.00	\$650.00
Student	\$175.00	\$275.00	\$200.00	\$350.00	\$225.00	\$425.00
New Member	\$275.90	-	\$275.90	-	\$403.00	-
Extra Sponsors	\$275.90	-	\$325.50	-	\$403.00	-

Gala and Guest Special Event Meals

Gala	Gala Guest/ Non-Member	Welcome Reception Guest	Brunch Guest	Lunch Guest	Dinner Guest	Kids Gala
\$125.00	\$145.00	\$70.00	\$55.00	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$75.00



Scholarships

Furthermore, we are pleased to offer a cost-effective housing option on campus, allowing attendees to stay at a lower expense!

Transportation costs will be minimized as well. A shuttle loop will be in operation, connecting the airport, designated hotels near the campus, and the Rocket Center campus.

To further support financial accessibility, we will be including 15 registration stipends.



Enhancing Financial Accessibility

By hosting the conference onsite, we aim to increase flexibility and control in managing the event, leading to potential cost reductions. Moreover, local sponsorships are expected to be substantial, given the history of similar events in the Rocket City. We want to ensure that these advantages directly translate into affordable registration fees, with a cost of 425 USD for regular member registration.

We will provide discounted rates for student and new member registrations, making it more accessible for them to participate in the conference.



Food Service

Opening Reception	\$47,775
Breakfast	\$48,750
Lunch	\$98,540
Breaks	\$19,250
Gala	\$47,775
Gala - Wine	\$9,360
Service Charges - 22%	\$35,550
Estimated Planetarium Concessions Cost	\$75,850
Total	\$382,850

Admin Breakdown

Planning:	\$100,000
Conference Stipend (15)	\$16,740
Printing:	\$20,000
Total	\$136,740

Additional Labor Breakdown

Photography	\$5,320
Guest Speaker Stipend	\$25,000
Transportation	\$100,000
Total	\$130,320

Facility Cost

Saturn V Hall	\$23,400
INTUITIVE® Planetarium	\$26,000
Discovery Theater	\$3,250
National Geographic Theater	\$6,500
Educator Training Facility	\$11,115
Space Camp Operations Auditorium	\$42,000
Tent Rental	\$27,300
Total	\$139,565

Proposed Expenses

Based on 750 attendees

Grand Total

\$789,475

Food Service

Opening Reception	\$38,220
Breakfast	\$39,000
Lunch	\$79,040
Breaks	\$15,500
Gala	\$38,220
Gala - Wine	\$9,360
Service Charges - 22%	\$28,475
Estimated Planetarium Concessions Cost	\$60,850
Total	\$308,665

Admin Breakdown

Planning:	\$100,000
Conference Stipend (15)	\$16,740
Printing:	\$20,000
Total	\$136,740

Additional Labor Breakdown

Photography	\$5,320
Guest Speaker Stipend	\$25,000
Transportation	\$100,000
Total	\$130,320

Facility Cost

Saturn V Hall	\$23,400
INTUITIVE® Planetarium	\$26,000
Discovery Theater	\$3,250
National Geographic Theater	\$6,500
Educator Training Facility	\$11,115
Space Camp Operations Auditorium	\$42,000
Tent Rental	\$27,300
Total	\$139,565

Proposed Expenses

Based on 600 attendees

Grand Total

\$715,290

Food Service

Opening Reception	\$28,665
Breakfast	\$29,250
Lunch	\$59,540
Breaks	\$11,500
Gala	\$28,665
Gala - Wine	\$9,360
Service Charges - 22%	\$21,401
Estimated Planetarium Concessions Cost	\$50,850
Total	\$239,231

Admin Breakdown

Planning:	\$100,000
Conference Stipend (15)	\$16,725
Printing:	\$20,000
Total	\$136,725

Additional Labor Breakdown

Photography	\$5,320
Guest Speaker Stipend	\$25,000
Transportation	\$100,000
Total	\$130,320

Facility Cost

Saturn V Hall	\$23,400
INTUITIVE® Planetarium	\$26,000
Discovery Theater	\$3,250
National Geographic Theater	\$6,500
Educator Training Facility	\$11,115
Space Camp Operations Auditorium	\$42,000
Tent Rental	\$27,300
Total	\$139,565

Proposed Expenses

Based on 450 attendees

Grand Total

\$645,841



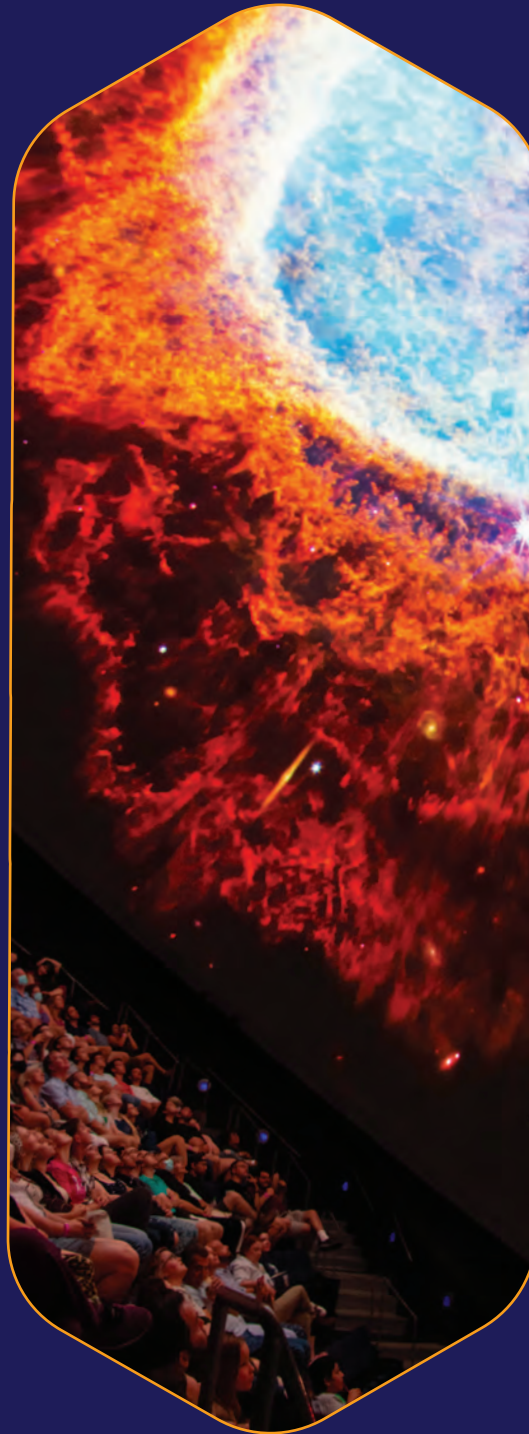
IPS 2026: Rocket City, USA

We strongly advocate for Huntsville, Alabama as the ideal location to host the International Planetarium Society Conference in 2026, with a strong focus on maximizing time, resources, and professional development activities.

Huntsville's rich history of contributing to NASA missions for over 70 years positions it as a key player in the space industry, making it a perfect choice for a conference that aims to elevate planetariums and create a lasting impact in this field. The city's well-prepared infrastructure and diverse offerings allow for a comprehensive and enriching experience for conference delegates.

By hosting the conference in Huntsville, we aim to provide delegates with a valuable and productive experience. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center, with its singular campus hosting all dome and meeting sites, presents an opportunity to maximize time and resources. The presence of nearby hotels, along with one on-campus hotel, ensures convenience and accessibility for attendees. Multiple large auditoriums at the Rocket Center minimize scheduling conflicts, allowing for a focused and efficient conference program.

Professional development activities will be a cornerstone of the IPS 2026 Conference in Huntsville. The *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium will offer vendors the chance to showcase their content and products in an immersive and impactful manner. We anticipate upgrading the system to further enhance this experience by Autumn



2026. Additionally, the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium will provide a premier platform for presenting plenary papers, delivering delegates exceptional fulldome presentation opportunities that foster professional growth.

Our goal is to create a conference that holds value to the delegates and advances the planetarium field. Huntsville's extensive array of activities, museums, and restaurants, combined with its commitment to innovation, ensures that delegates will have ample opportunities for networking, collaboration, and engagement. By hosting the IPS 2026 Conference in Huntsville, we aim to create a lasting impact, both in terms of the knowledge gained and the relationships formed within the planetarium community.

On behalf of the *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center (Home of Space Camp), we express our gratitude to the IPS Council for considering us as the potential host site for IPS 2026. We are committed to delivering a conference that is fruitful, inspiring, and leaves a significant mark on the planetarium industry.





**U.S. Space &
Rocket Center®**

Home of *INTUITIVE*® Planetarium