

Comets, Asteroids, Meteors

GREAT BALLS

OF FIRE!

A 3,500 SQUARE FOOT EXHIBITION



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NOW ON TOUR !

Origins of Our Solar System

The Story of Asteroids & Comets

Impacts & Risk



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www.GreatBallsOfFireExhibit.org

www.KillerAsteroids.org



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National Center for Interactive Learning



Project Overview

The threat of a catastrophic impact from an asteroid or comet is a staple of popular culture. If there was a dinosaur killer in Earth's past, is there a human killer in our future? What are the chances and how do we assess the risks? For that matter, what are asteroids, comets, and meteorites, and where do they come from?

The Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning, with funding from the National Science Foundation and NASA, has developed a national traveling exhibition program called **Great Balls of Fire: Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors**. The project includes two exhibits (3,500 sq. ft. and 1,500 sq. ft.), an education program for museum educators and docents, an outreach program to engage amateur astronomers, a public website (www.killerasteroids.org), and a programmatic website (www.greatballsoffireexhibit.org).

Comets, Asteroids, Meteors **GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!**

Exhibit Components (3,500 square foot exhibit)

Visitors can:

- ▶ Climb into a "spaceship" and blast off to the asteroid belt and Jupiter, on a mission to gather data about asteroids and comets. (see image on right)
- ▶ Operate a blink comparator device to understand one of the tools astronomers use to find Near Earth Objects. A partnership with the Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics will allow visitors to enter their email address and receive images of asteroids that they can analyze from their home computer.
- ▶ Learn how scientists use light curves to determine the shape and movement of asteroids.
- ▶ Save Earth and learn about gravity by trying to divert a "rubble pile" asteroid from impacting our planet.
- ▶ Use a Google maps display to see what would happen if a comet or asteroid hit your town.
- ▶ Shoot a projectile into a water tank and use a Spin Browser device to manipulate high speed video of your impact.
- ▶ Examine a collection of rocks and use a series of tests (magnetism, color, density) to determine which one is a meteorite (or meteor-wrong).
- ▶ View clips from Hollywood movies and determine if they got the science right.
- ▶ Build their own solar system, including asteroid belts and comets, using a 42" touch-table display.



Rental Information

- ▶ Requires at least 3,500 square feet of exhibit space.
- ▶ \$45,000 rental fee (includes set-up and take-down technician), plus cost of inbound shipping (2 vans)
- ▶ 3-month rental period
- ▶ 12-foot or greater ceiling height recommended.
- ▶ **Internet connection required**

To book **Great Balls of Fire**, contact:
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