

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

A 1,500 SQUARE FOOT EXHIBITION

**NOW ON TOUR !**

Origins of Our Solar System

The Story of Asteroids & Comets

Impacts & Risk

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[www.GreatBallsOfFireExhibit.org](http://www.GreatBallsOfFireExhibit.org)  
[www.KillerAsteroids.org](http://www.KillerAsteroids.org)

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## 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](http://www.killerasteroids.org)), and a programmatic website

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## Exhibit Components (1,500 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, and then test what they've learned. (see image below)
- ▶ Examine a model of the asteroid Itokawa, that was explored by the Japanese spacecraft *Hayabusa*.
- ▶ Enjoy a display of art and artifacts that tell the story of comet observations throughout human history.
- ▶ Learn the size of the average rock in a meteor shower event (it's smaller than you think!).
- ▶ See what would happen if asteroids or comets of various sizes hit your hometown.
- ▶ Use a variety of tests (magnetism, color, density/relative weight) to determine if a rock is a meteorite (or a meteor-wrong), and examine a collection of meteorites from all around the world.
- ▶ Determine if clips from Hollywood movies are *Science Fact* or *Science Fiction*, and compare their answers to those of scientists and previous visitors.
- ▶ Build their own solar system, including asteroid belts and comets, using a 42" touch-table display.



## Rental Information

- ▶ Requires at least 1,500 square feet of exhibit space.
- ▶ \$7,500 rental fee, plus the cost of inbound shipping (less than 1 van)
- ▶ 3-month rental period
- ▶ 10-foot or greater ceiling height recommended.
- ▶ Staffing, technical support, and internet connection required

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