
February 22, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apollo 16: Fifty Years Ago

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The Journey Museum and Learning Center presents the Learning Forum, “Apollo 16: Fifty Years Ago,” by Tom Durkin on Friday, April 15 at 2 p.m. Durkin will discuss the successes and problems related to the mission.

On April 16, 1972, Apollo 16 lifted off for the Moon. It was NASA’s second-to-last Apollo lunar mission, the tenth “crewed” mission, and the fifth mission to actually land on the Moon in an area called the Descartes highlands. This area turned out to not to be of volcanic origin as originally thought but rather formed by meteor impacts.

Astronauts John Young and Charlie Duke descended to the surface in the Lunar Module Orion for 71 hours. They collected over 200 pounds of samples including “Big Muley” (the largest moon rock ever collected), conducted various scientific experiments, and drove the “moon buggy” for over 16 miles, while Astronaut Ken Mattingly orbited above in the Command Service Module Casper. The mission was cut short one day due to problems that were overcome, and the three astronauts safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean 11 days after liftoff on April 27, 1972.

This presentation will be followed by a discussion with the audience. Join us at the museum or online. Seating is limited. Call 605-394-6923 to reserve your place at the museum. [Click here to register on Zoom.](#)

This program is half-off for members and is included with museum admission - \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and half-off for members.

ABOUT TOM DURKIN

Since 1999, Tom Durkin has worked as the deputy director of the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium, headquartered at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

He manages educational and research activities associated with the Space Grant Consortium, which is one of 52 university-based Consortia across the nation that fund projects in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math supported by NASA’s unique mission.

Tom received a bachelor’s in earth science from Adelphi University in New York, and a master’s in geology from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is a Certified Professional Geologist.



The Journey Museum and Learning Center was established in 1997 and is conveniently located in downtown Rapid City at 222 New York St., two blocks east of The Monument.

###