

CHARLES M.

SCHULZ

MUSEUM

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Snoopy in Orbit

A new exhibition at the Schulz Museum offers a rare look at space-flown *Peanuts* artifacts.



SANTA ROSA, Calif.—Fresh from his lunar adventures as the zero-gravity indicator (ZGI) for NASA’s Artemis I mission (November 16–December 11, 2022), Snoopy is making his long-awaited public debut for the very first time since returning to Earth. The ZGI Snoopy will be on view this summer at the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in the exhibition *Snoopy in Orbit* (July 13, 2023–January 14, 2024), alongside other never-before-exhibited space-flown *Peanuts* artifacts.

The ZGI Snoopy acted as NASA’s visual confirmation of reaching orbit during the Artemis I mission around the Moon and back. Meticulously designed using only NASA-approved materials, the one-of-a-kind ZGI Snoopy traveled 1.4 million miles in total—further than any human astronaut to date. It carries on the longstanding relationship between *Peanuts* and NASA, which began when NASA first contacted Charles Schulz in 1968 to create the Silver Snoopy Award, a sterling silver lapel pin to honor employees and individuals who contribute to flight safety and mission success.

“I think having Snoopy go to the Moon was the greatest triumph of all,” Charles Schulz said in 1977. “This is because cartoonists have been sending their characters into space for years in their stories, but mine was the first character who really went to the Moon. Snoopy lapel pins were actually carried by the astronauts to space.”

Schulz’s own Silver Snoopy pin will be on view in the exhibition, as well as one of the cartoonist’s pen nibs, which was selected to be part of the special cargo taken around the Moon and back during the Artemis I mission.

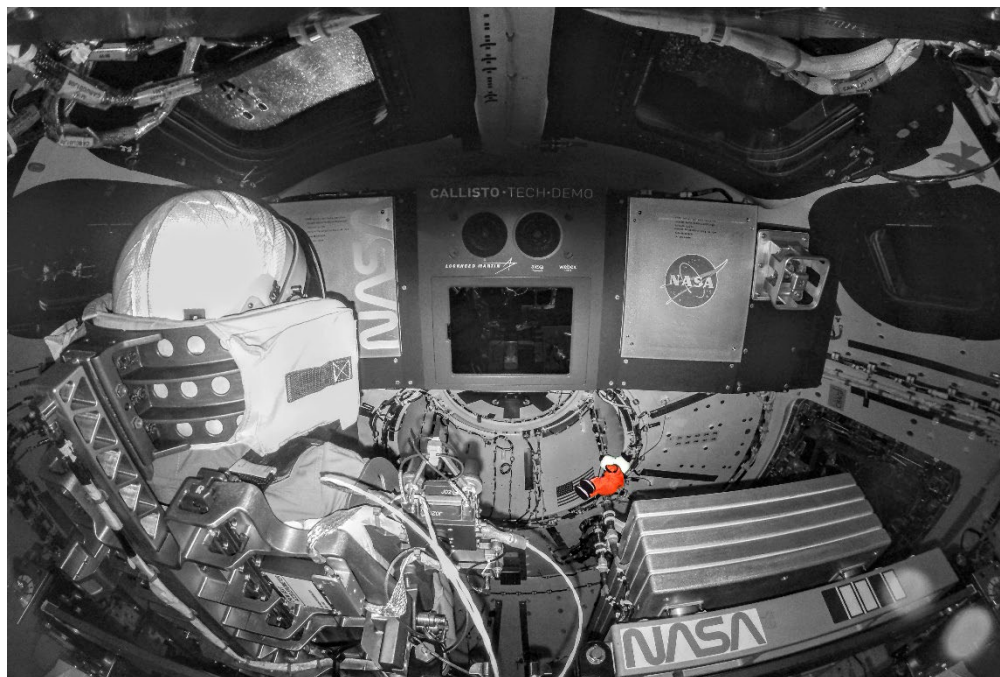
Additionally, two other space-flown Snoopys will make their exhibition debut—an Astronaut Snoopy (Hallmark, 2018) that was aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in 2019 and a vintage Astronaut Snoopy (Determined Productions, 1969) on loan from former NASA astronaut Mike Massimino.

The former was featured in a video broadcast from the ISS during the 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with Expedition 61 crewmates Jessica Meir and Christina Koch. The two women made the first-ever all-female spacewalk during that mission. Video footage of the astronauts with Snoopy will be shown alongside the doll. *Snoopy in Orbit* will also include an interactive display inspired by the ISS. Visitors are encouraged to sit inside and look out of the dome to see various scenes of space, including some surprise appearances by Snoopy and other members of the *Peanuts* Gang.

Mike Massimino's Astronaut Snoopy is one he has owned since he was six, when he would dress up in a matching astronaut suit and dream about going to space (the exhibition includes a photo of the duo in 1969). He brought the doll aboard the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* for his last spaceflight, STS-125, a Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission in 2009. Massimino made history during that mission as the first person to tweet from space, later referring to Snoopy as his "co-pilot" and tweeting, "Snoopy was very helpful." Now a *New York Times* bestselling author, Massimino will appear at the museum on Saturday, August 5, to share his experiences as an astronaut, including the full-circle moment of floating in space with his beloved Astronaut Snoopy.

Snoopy in Orbit was inspired by the recent donation by Peanuts Worldwide of the 2022 ZGI Snoopy and 2009 Astronaut Snoopy. Both have now found a permanent landing place in the Schulz Museum's collections of over 40,000 objects, where they will be cared for and preserved for generations to come.

Melissa Menta, senior vice president of Marketing and Communications for Peanuts Worldwide, and Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, launch director for NASA's Exploration Ground Systems Program, will join Massimino's talk at the museum on August 5 to discuss Snoopy's continued role with NASA and what lies ahead for the "First Beagle on the Moon."



In this enhanced image, Snoopy, the zero-gravity indicator for NASA's Artemis I flight test, floats in space on Nov. 20, 2022, while attached to his tether in the Orion spacecraft. Snoopy's spacesuit is modeled after the suit astronauts will wear during launch and reentry in Orion on future missions to the Moon. (Image credit: NASA)



Expedition 61 crewmates Jessica Meir (left) and Christina Koch of NASA reveal an Astronaut Snoopy doll on the International Space Station during the 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. (Image credit: NASA)



Former NASA astronaut Mike Massimino with his childhood Astronaut Snoopy floating in Space Shuttle *Atlantis* in 2009. (Image credit: Mike Massimino)



SUPPORTING EVENTS

Events subject to change. Visit schulzmuseum.org/calendar for current information.

Saturday, August 5, 2:00 pm

3-2-1! Snoopy & the Schulz Museum in Orbit

Celebrate the Schulz Museum's 21st anniversary with an out-of-this-world event! Join former NASA astronaut **Mike Massimino** to hear about his experiences in space with Snoopy and discover Snoopy's continued role with NASA, from Apollo 10 to the Artemis space missions today. Massimino will be joined by **Charlie Blackwell-Thompson**, launch director for NASA's Exploration Ground Systems Program, and **Melissa Menta**, senior vice president of Marketing and Communications for Peanuts Worldwide. **Paige Braddock**, chief creative officer for Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates, will moderate the discussion. Theater seating for 2:00 pm is limited and requires a ticket. Massimino will also be available for photos and a book signing after the talk. *Cost: \$15.00 Adults/ \$10.00 Senior/ \$5.00 Youth/ Free for Children 3 & under.*

Monday, September 25, 10:00 am–Noon

Museum Mondays for Little Ones: Blast Off!

Explore the exhibition *Snoopy in Orbit* with a range of space-inspired activities. Wrap and decorate a tinfoil Moon, paint an eclipse with sponges, and enjoy stories that explore space. Designed especially for children ages 1–5 and their caregivers, Museum Mondays features stories, crafts, and activities inspired by changing themes. *Cost: \$10.00 per child/free for up to two adults per child before 11:00 am.*

ALSO ON VIEW

Kite-Flying Foibles

Through September 17

schulzmuseum.org/kite-flying-foibles

Charlie Brown has many frustrations, but one of the worst is flying a kite. In one memorable storyline, he even gets so mad he bites a tree and becomes a fugitive from the Environmental Protection Agency! Explore kite-flying with the *Peanuts* Gang and get swept away by original comic art and vintage *Peanuts* products. Beware, you may even encounter a Kite-Eating Tree!

Single-Panel Peanuts

Through November 6

schulzmuseum.org/single-panel-peanuts

In 1988, Charles Schulz was freed of the restrictions of four equal frames for his daily comics he once described as “the size of four air-mail stamps.” Ever after, his only constraint was the outer frame, and he often used the space to create one long single-panel comic. Discover how this creative freedom helped him explore a more expansive sense of place in the world of *Peanuts*.

ABOUT THE SCHULZ MUSEUM

Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center
2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 579-4452 | schulzmuseum.org

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center opened in 2002 to fulfill its mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of Charles M. Schulz, the creator of *Peanuts*, and building an understanding of cartoon art. Located 50 miles north of San Francisco in Sonoma County, California—where Schulz lived and worked for over 40 years—the Schulz Museum features the largest collection of original *Peanuts* comic strips in the world and presents changing exhibitions and programming for all ages. The museum also provides reference services and supports a robust traveling exhibition program. For more information, visit schulzmuseum.org.

HOURS & ADMISSION

Weekdays: 11:00 am–5:00 pm
Weekends: 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Museum Members, children 3 and under: Free
Adults: \$12.00
Seniors 62 and over (with ID): \$8.00
Youth 4-18 and college students (with ID): \$5.00
EBT Cardholders (with card; up to 4 people): \$2.00
Military: \$1.00 off admission

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