

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 28, 2002

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**THIS SUMMER'S ADVENTURE**  
***MARS: THE NEXT FRONTIER***  
**AT THE**  
**ADLER PLANETARIUM & ASTRONOMY MUSEUM**  
**JUNE 14 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2002**

From the moment astronauts took their first walk on the surface of the Moon in 1969, the concept of humans someday making a home on a distant planet became less a question of “if” and more a question of “when.” This summer at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum visitors can experience a tantalizing glimpse into the future, when humans will make a home on Mars and live off the land, by exploring the Mars Habitation Station on the Adler’s south lawn.

The Mars Habitation Station (MarsHab) is an actual test facility designed for living on Mars and serves as the centerpiece for the Mars Society’s Mars Analog Research Station project (M.A.R.S). The Mars Society, an international organization dedicated to furthering the exploration and settlement of Mars by public and private means, sends teams of scientists to remote places on Earth to simulate what it would be like to live and do research work on the Red Planet. The MarsHab in Chicago is identical

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Mars/Add 1

to the one operating in the Utah desert that has served as a base for a team of six researchers for the past year. The first of the MarsHabs has been in operation on Devon Island in the Arctic since 2000.

The EuroMars Research Station that will be displayed at the Adler is approximately 28 feet in diameter and about 32 feet high, consisting of three floors, housing 1600 square feet of living space, laboratory and storage facilities. Visitors will enter the MarsHab through a simulated airlock into the EVA room. Their experience will be facilitated by Mars Society volunteers who will explain how the MarsHab is constructed and what type of research is being done at various locations around the globe where other MarsHabs are currently stationed. They will see a mockup of the laboratories and the greenhouse that is used to grow food and purify the one of the most essential components for survival on another planet - water.

The M.A.R.S. project was formed to work through the technological challenges of traveling to Mars and once there, establishing a settlement. The MarsHab utilizes the combined skills of a cross disciplinary group of astrobiologists, engineers, mechanics, physicians and other scientists to, according to Mars Society, “study the geologic features, environmental conditions, biological attributes or combinations thereof that may approximate in some specific way those thought to be encountered on Mars, either at present or earlier in that planet's history.” Studies are also being done on psychological issues such as long-term isolation and the effect of habitat architecture.

### **The Martian experience continues inside the Adler**

Visitors can continue their Martian trek by blasting off in the *MarsQuest* sky show, narrated by Star Trek's Patrick Stewart. This planetarium show, created by Loch Ness Productions in collaboration with the Space Science Institute of Boulder, Colorado, with funding from the National Science Foundation, traces the history of Mars as seen by various cultures throughout time, presents current discoveries from science missions that are unlocking the mysteries of the Red Planet and looks to the future which may include the first human footprints on the surface of the Red Planet. In the Adler's groundbreaking

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Mars/Add 2

CyberSpace Gallery, a state-of-the-art, completely digital learning center, those curious about the Red Planet can investigate the past, present and future of Mars through a series of informative plasma screen presentations.

**Experience Mars This Summer at the Adler.  
For information call 312-922-STAR.**

**NEW IN 2002  
*Under One Sky***

A stunning new gallery *Bringing the Heavens to Earth* and an exciting new sky show *Skywatchers of Africa* launches *Under One Sky*, a year-long theme that celebrates the influence of astronomy in cultures around the world over thousands of years. Family and educational programs along with special activities for Adler visitors will explore diversity through the exploration of how past and current cultures have looked to the heavens for answers and guidance.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Hours**

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Summer Hours

**June 1 – September 2, 2002**

Saturday – Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

On the first Friday of each month the Adler offers special programs with extended hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Regular Admission:**

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$16.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$14.00 for children 4 – 17. This package includes admission and the choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$11.00 for children 4 – 17. This package includes admission and choice of sky shows.

*The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum is the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 35 million people during the past 72 years. Nine state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning new Sky Pavilion and the recently renovated landmark 1930s building present modern space exploration along with the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider™ Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fuels the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a staff of over 200, the Adler pursues its mission to present the human quest to better understand the universe. Adler scientists and historians, who hold joint appointments at the*

*University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The Adler is leading the way into the new "Space Millennium."*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR

**TTY: (312) 322-0995**

**[www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)**

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