Manhattan Project History in August

- August 2, 1939 - Leo Szilard, Edward Teller and Eugene Wigner wrote a letter that warned of Germany’s atomic bomb development and suggested that the US do the same. The letter was signed by Albert Einstein and mailed to President Franklin Roosevelt.
- August 13, 1942 - President Franklin Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill British Prime Minister signed the Quebec Agreement, outlining the terms of development related to nuclear energy.
- August 6, 1945 - Little Boy atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Over 70,000 people were killed by the blast and another 60,000 would die later as a result of the weapon.
- August 9, 1945 - Fat Man atomic bomb was dropped over the city of Nagasaki. The weapon detonated 1,600 feet over the city. Over 150,000 people would die as a result of the weapon in a five year period.
- August 14, 1945 - Japan officially surrendered.

This Month’s Feature from the AMSE’s Curatorial Collection was donated by Kent C. Brannock, Ph.D. who worked for Tennessee Eastman Company in the department that recovered U-235 and converted it into “green salt”. The final product was turned over to U.S. Army couriers to be taken, in “little black bags”, to Los Alamos. The bags included labels that included the warning to “KEEP 100 FEET AWAY”.

In celebration of the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse we are featuring “From Manhattan to the Moon” Exhibit at AMSE from August 12 through August 29. The lunar sample was gathered on the Apollo 15 mission in 1972 and is on loan from the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX.

Our New “Race to Space” Photography Exhibition Opening Reception is Tuesday, August 15 at 8 am ET at the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. The show, at 1400 Oak Ridge Turnpike, highlights Manhattan Project scientists who later joined the Space Program.

The Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, August 21 Will Be Crossing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge. We are offering two free viewing locations where park rangers will be distributing free eclipse glasses. Park rangers will also discuss safe viewing practices and use enhanced viewing equipment to help visitors enjoy all phases of the eclipse. Special Jr. Ranger activities will also be available for kids. Viewing locations include:
- The American Museum of Science & Energy/Manhattan Project NHP Visitor Center located at 300 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge.
- The East Tennessee Technology Park located at 200 Heritage Center Boulevard, Oak Ridge.

Distribution of eclipse glasses and viewers will begin at 11 am ET at both locations. The partial phase of the eclipse will begin at ~1 pm ET and end at ~4 pm ET. The totality phase will occur at ~2:30 pm ET.