

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Oak Ridge, Tennessee



November 2017

Manhattan Project History in November

- On November 1, 1939 the Advisory Committee on Uranium recommended that the government purchase graphite and uranium oxide for fission research.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt was re-elected for a third term on November 5, 1940. While in office the President initiated the Manhattan Project and worked with Allied leaders to lay the groundwork for the United Nations.
- On November 25, 1942, after rejecting two other locations General Groves selected Site Y, also known as The Hill or Los Alamos, as a separate scientific laboratory to design an atomic bomb.
- The X-10 Graphite Reactor goes critical on November 4, 1943. DuPont began construction of the reactor on February 2, 1943. X-10 was shut down in 1963 and became a National Historic Landmark in 1965.



The National Parks Conservation Association's Regional Advisory Council recently met in Oak Ridge and spent time at the X-10 Reactor.

We Are Always Looking for More VIPs (Volunteers in the Park). Interested in helping your national park? Contact Effie.Houston@nps.gov for more information on how you can get involved.

Manhattan Project staff Will Be Out and About in the Community of Oak Ridge during the month of November. Rangers will be at Greenfield Senior Living giving a talk on Women of the Manhattan Project on Friday, November 3rd. We will also be joining Alpha Delta Kappa, a teaching society, for a discussion on the creation of the park on Thursday, November 16th.

Our "Race to Space" Photography Exhibition is Still on Display in the Lobby of the Oak Ridge Federal

Building, 200 Administration Road. The show highlights Manhattan Project scientists who later joined the Space Program.

Our Partnership with the Udall Foundation and the Parks in Focus Program is Going Strong. The program connects youth to nature and history through photography, environmental education, outdoor recreation, and creative expression. This year we are working with 3rd and 4th graders at Girls, Inc. of Oak Ridge. Don't be surprised to see the group of young photographers at Jackson Square on Wednesday, November 15th.

This Month's Feature from AMSE's Curatorial Collection is a wooden desk. Workers and their families were instructed to bring little furniture when they moved to Oak Ridge, since it was being provided along with their government-assigned housing. The government contracted for items such as this desk, which could be mass-produced quickly using plywood and other materials. The stamp on the back of the desk provides information about the contract number and it was to be used - in this case, in an Oak Ridge dormitory.



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