National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

December 2019

Join Park Rangers for a Unique Opportunity Inside the Oak Ridge Turnpike Gatehouse on Saturday, December 7 at 3:30 pm (ET). Rangers will host the popular Secrecy Security and Spies program on in the turnpike gatehouse. The program will begin at 3:30 pm (ET) giving visitors some insight to what life was like in Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project with the need for secrecy, all of the security that surrounded the city, and the threat of spies. The turnpike gatehouse is located at 2900 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Take a Break from the Hustle and Bustle of the Holiday Season on Saturday, December 21 and join rangers for a program discussing the Role of Women in the Manhattan Project. This 30 minute program will take place at 2:30 pm (ET) in the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge Imagination Gallery. Entry to the program is free however if you would like to explore the museum before or after the program you will need to pay admission to the museum.

We've been Working with the City of Oak Ridge and Explore Oak Ridge on Several New Waysides Installed Around Town including in front of the Guest House, the Chapel on the Hill, the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, Jackson Square, Melton Lake Park, soon to be one at the Turnpike Gatehouse and more to be installed next year.

Manhattan Project History in December

- Enrico Fermi and his team produced the first controlled nuclear reaction, Chicago Pile-1, on a squash court in the University of Chicago on December 2, 1942. Two months later, February 1943, construction of the X-10 Graphite Reactor began in Oak Ridge, TN.
- The first Alpha racetrack at the Y-12 plant failed and was shut down for repairs and equipment rebuilding in December 1943. Other Alpha racetracks suffered similar issues soon after.
- Chemical separation of plutonium from the X-10 Graphite Reactor began in December 1943.
- Construction of the chemical separation plants at Hanford, WA was completed in December 1944.
- On December 25, 1946 the Soviets created their first nuclear chain reaction in a design similar to Enrico Fermi's reactor at the Chicago Met Lab.

We are Very Pleased to Announce that Robbie Meyer has Accepted a Position of Education Technician for Manhattan Project National Historical Park based in Oak Ridge. Robbie's carrier with the federal government began in the US Army. He joined the National Park Service in 2013 and previously worked at Yosemite National Park as a Youth Conservation Corps Work Leader, at Homestead National Monument of America as a Park Guide, and a Backcountry Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Robbie joined the Manhattan Project Team in early 2016.

Park Visitor Center Desk
at the
Children's Museum of Oak Ridge
461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 482-1942
or visit us at:
www.nps.gov/mapr
https://Twitter@MnhtnProjectNPS
www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS
www.Instagram.com/ManhattanProjectNPS