

# National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



October 2019

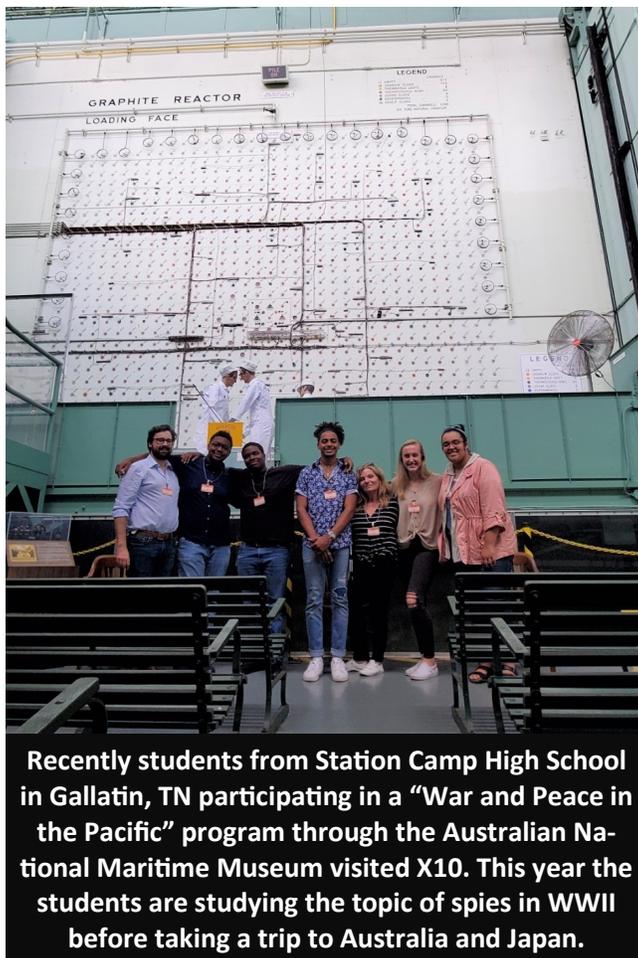
**We'll be at the Wheat Homecoming on Sunday, October 6** at 11 am (ET). Wheat was a prosperous farming community that dissolved when the U.S. Government purchased the land in 1942 as part of the Manhattan Project. The Homecoming will be held at the George Jones Memorial Baptist Church, the only remaining building of the former community. Located at the intersection of Highway 58 and Blair Road near the former K-25 site, the church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This event is free and open to the public.

**Put on Your Dancing Shoes on Friday, October 11** and help us commemorate the Jackson Square Tennis Court Dances that occurred 75 years ago. The National Park Service is partnering with Explore Oak Ridge to host a free swing dancing event with music from the WWII era at the Jackson Square Tennis Courts in Oak Ridge from 6-9 pm (ET). All ages are welcome to attend and everyone is encouraged to participate in the costume contest with their best 1940's costume. In the event of inclement weather the dance will be held at the Ball Room at Doubletree by Hilton at 215 S. Illinois Ave. Oak Ridge, TN.

**Check Your Air Pressure and Grab Your Helmet for a Ride Along the North Boundary Greenway October 19** at 10 am (ET). We will begin at the Turnpike Gatehouse and travel down Quarry Trail. Along the ride we will explore the former communities that were here before the Manhattan Project. Rangers will stop several times along the bike ride to point out the rich history that is found within the Oak Ridge area. The turnpike gatehouse is located at the intersection of Wisconsin Ave and the Oak Ridge turnpike in Oak Ridge, TN.

## Manhattan Project History in October

- Ernest O. Lawrence, Arthur H. Compton, J. Robert Oppenheimer, James B. Conant, and George Kistiakowsky held a meeting on October 21, 1941 reviewing the British MAUD Report. The meeting concluded that an atomic bomb could be made.
- On October 1942 DuPont is put in charge of the plutonium production project.
- Vannevar Bush, Director of the U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development, approved J. Robert Oppenheimer's appointment to lead Project Y, the scientific research laboratory on October 19, 1942.
- On October 4, 1943 DuPont engineers complete designs for the Hanford, WA pile, 100-B. Construction begins shortly after.
- Construction of the X-10 Graphite Reactor in Oak Ridge, TN was complete on October 31, 1943. The pile would go critical for the first time 4 days later.



Recently students from Station Camp High School in Gallatin, TN participating in a "War and Peace in the Pacific" program through the Australian National Maritime Museum visited X10. This year the students are studying the topic of spies in WWII before taking a trip to Australia and Japan.

**Interpretative Waysides are Starting to Appear Around Town.** The latest two to be installed are the new Victory Garden by the Flat Top House behind the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. Others that will be (or have already have been installed include Chapel on the Hill, Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station,

the Guest House also known as the Alexander Inn, Jackson Square with more to come!

**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](http://www.nps.gov/mapr)  
Twitter@MnhtnProjectNPS  
[www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS](http://www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS)  
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