

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



February
2020

Manhattan Project History in February

- Philip Abelson began working on uranium enrichment using liquid thermal diffusion in February of 1941. However construction of his thermal diffusion plant in Philadelphia did not begin until January 1944. This same process would be used later at the S-50 plant in Oak Ridge, TN.
- Glenn Seaborg and his research group discovered Plutonium while working at the University of California, Berkeley on February 24, 1941.
- Construction of the Y-12 Uranium enrichment facilities and the X-10 Graphite Reactor began in February 1943. Stone and Webster Engineering was in charge of Y-12 construction while DuPont handled X-10.
- One year after construction Y-12 sent 200 grams of uranium-235 to Los Alamos, NM in February 1944.
- Los Alamos received their first shipment of plutonium from the Hanford site on February 2, 1945. Five months later the Trinity test took place.



The Beginning or the End is an American docudrama film about the development of the atomic bomb in WWII, released by MGM in 1947.

Visit Inside the Oak Ridge Turnpike Gatehouse on Saturday, February 8 at 3:30 pm (ET). Rangers will host the popular *"Secrecy, Security, and Spies"* program at 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.

Join a Park Ranger for a "Manhattan Project in Pop Culture" on Saturday, February 22 at 3 pm (ET) at the American Museum of Science & Energy, 115 East Main Street, Oak Ridge. We will lead a discussion of the impact the Project had on popular culture in movies, music and television. We'll see movie and television clips and hear songs that make reference to the lasting impact of the Manhattan Project. There will be time between the clips to discuss the infusion of nuclear age language in American culture. Admission to this program is free however, if you want

to explore the museum you must pay the admission fee.

We Want to Thank our Volunteers with a Special Event on Thursday, February 13 at 1:30 pm ET at the American Museum of Science & Energy. Park Volunteers often serve as the first interaction that many visitors experience. This first point of contact to our visitors allows them to learn more and explore the park and city of Oak Ridge. If you are interested in becoming a National Park Volunteer contact our volunteer coordinator Effie Houston at effie_houston@nps.gov or by phone at 423-569-7328.

Throughout the month of February Manhattan Project will be speaking to several groups in the local area. **If Your Organization is Interested in Having a Park Ranger Meet with Your Group and Discuss Some of the Upcoming Strategic Park Projects** please contact us at 865-482-1942.

**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.com/MnhntnProjectNPS>
www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS
www.instagram.com/ManhattanProjectNPS**

