

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



July 2019

Manhattan Project History in July

- On July 4, 1934 Leo Szilard filed a patent application on the use of neutron-induced chain reactions to create explosions and the concept of critical mass.
- The National Defense Research Committee took over responsibility for uranium research on July 1, 1940. The committee was led by Vannevar Bush until he was appointed Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development.
- Trinity tests of the plutonium implosion bomb took place on July 16, 1945. The explosion was 15-20 kilotons of force and could be seen from miles away & was reported as an accidental detonation of an explosives bunker.
- President Truman informed Stalin of the existence of the atomic bomb on July 24, 1945. Stalin had already been informed by his spies.
- USS Indianapolis delivered Little Boy bomb units to Tinian Island on July 26, 1945.



Walk with a Ranger through the pre-Manhattan Project community of Wheat on Saturday, July 27 at 10 am (ET). Stops include "downtown" Wheat, George Jones Memorial Baptist Church, Roane College site & Crawford Cumberland Presbyterian Memorial.

This Month's Highlighted Curatorial Item from the American Museum of Science & Energy's Collection is the shoulder patch worn by the Manhattan Engineer District. It depicts the Army Service Forces insignia in the cloud at the top and an atom being struck by a lightning bolt, signifying the splitting of the atom done in the Manhattan Project.



**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
[Twitter@MnhtnProjectNPS](https://twitter.com/MnhtnProjectNPS)
www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS
www.instagram.com/ManhattanProjectNPS**

Walk with Ranger through Jackson Square on Saturday, July 6 at 10 am (ET) in Jackson Square in Oak Ridge TN. The program will begin in the upper parking lot of Jackson Square in front of the fountains. During the program we will discuss how routine, tradition, and the comforts of home helped keep Oak Ridge residents focused on the mission and not their hardships.

Join Us for "Secrecy Security and Spies" on Saturday, July 20 at 3:30 pm (ET) at the Turnpike Gatehouse (2900 Oak Ridge Turnpike). The program will give some insight to what life was like in Oak Ridge during the Manhattan Project with the need for secrecy.

We Had a Great Time at a Special Interpretation Program Just for Our Volunteers. Earlier in June we made arrangements for a ranger presentation for our volunteers at the Andrew Johnson National Historical Site and National Cemetery in downtown Greenville, TN. The site interprets the life and legacy of the 17th President (1865-1869).

