

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



September 2020

Manhattan Project History in September

- On September 13, 1942 the S-1 Executive Committee recommended building a pilot plant based on E. O. Lawrence's cyclotrons to separate uranium isotopes in TN.
- On September 17, 1942 Col. Leslie Groves takes command of the Manhattan Engineer District.
- On September 18, 1942 Col. Leslie Groves buys over 1200 tons of high-quality uranium ore from the Belgian Congo that was stored on Staten Island.
- On September 19, 1942 Oak Ridge, TN is selected by Col. Groves.
- By September, 1944 K-25 is only half completed and has no useable diffusion barriers. Y-12 is operating at 0.05% efficiency. Only a few grams of highly enriched uranium have been produced.
- The B reactor in Hanford WA. goes critical on September 27, 1944 and unforeseen problems arise. The reactor shut down and starts up again by itself the next day. It was determined that the cause was Xenon-135, a highly efficient neutron absorber and a product of nuclear reactions.
- On September 2, 1945 Japan signs the formal Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri.



Legos with a Ranger: The Calutron Girls.



Check Your Air Pressure and Grab Your Helmet and Bike with a Ranger along North Boundary Greenway Saturday, September 19 at 10 am ET. We'll stop several times to point out the rich history that is found within the Oak Ridge area. Meet at the Turnpike Gatehouse located at the intersection of Wisconsin Ave and the Oak Ridge Turnpike.

Paddle with A Ranger on Friday, September 25 at 10 am ET starting at Melton Lake Park. We'll be discussing the history of the Manhattan Project and Clinch River. All participants must wear a US Coast Guard approved PFD and are encouraged to bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and appropriate footwear. Programs may be cancelled due to unsafe weather.

Walk Through Wheat with a Ranger on Saturday, September 5 at 10 am ET. The walk will be approximately 1.5 miles with stops to discuss points of interest within the historic community. The trail is wide making it easy for social distancing and masks are encouraged. Wheat is located on Blair Road 0.3 miles off Oak Ridge Turnpike, in Oak Ridge, TN.

A Girl's Perspective Photographic Exhibit is Open at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge's Imagination Gallery. The pictures on display were taken by the young women of Girls Inc. of Oak Ridge.

**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:**

www.nps.gov/mapr
[www.twitter.com/MnhtnProjectNPS](https://twitter.com/MnhtnProjectNPS)
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