

SRS Museum August 2022 Newsletter

Read about our news and latest updates.

Welcome to the August edition of the SRS Museum Newsletter! In this update, you will find information on our educational programs, incoming exhibits, and the new members of the SRS Museum team.



What We're Up To

Summer temperatures have increased, and so has the number of visitors to the museum. Travelers from as far away as Japan, Russia, Oregon, Montana, Colorado, and Pennsylvania have stopped by to learn more about the history of the Savannah River Site. The museum has also hosted a number of tours, including three separate groups of SRNS Leaders Investing for Tomorrow (LIFT), various SRS Mentor/Intern organizations, the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, and most recently Alan Carr, Program Manager and Senior Historian for Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Christopher C'de Baca, Los Alamos Laboratory Mission Support Group Leader.



A group of SRNS Leaders Investing for Tomorrow pose with the LIFT sign outside of the SRSM.



The local Aiken Ambassadors with the Aiken Chamber of Commerce tour the museum with SRS Cold War Project Manager, Susie Ferrara (far left) and SRSM Educational Specialist, Evelyn Berry (far right).



Alan Carr, Program Manager and Senior Historian for Los Alamos National Laboratory (right), and Christopher C'de Baca, Los Alamos Laboratory Mission Support Group Leader (far left), enjoy a tour of the 6000 Stories exhibit.

Meet the People

Handling the increased traffic would not be possible without our volunteers and intern. **Chesler "Ches" Mathis** has been an intern at the museum since June. He has assisted with social media, collection management, and educational events. His internship will be complete at the end of August. SRSM staff wishes him all the best as he continues to pursue a degree in History at USC-Aiken.

The museum would also like to extend a welcome to our new Museum Assistant, **Courtney Hicks**. Courtney is a student at USC-Aiken and also the president of the university's History Club. She is currently completing a double major in History and Sociology. Courtney will be assisting with visitor engagement at the front desk on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Please stop in and say hello!

Volunteer Spotlight

A special thank you to our team of regular volunteers. Each of our volunteers offers a wealth of knowledge in SRS history, and we could not thank them enough for volunteering their time to assist with welcoming the public.

Alex Henderson, SRS Retiree: Volunteering with SRSM since 2019

John Gordon, SRS Retiree: Volunteering with SRSM since March 2022

Jay Bilyeu, SRS Retiree: Volunteering with the museum since April 2022

[SRS Museum Volunteer Application](#)

Pardon Our Progress!

Work continues on the incoming National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sponsored Defense, Deterrence, and Discovery exhibit. With the new exhibit being installed in the North Wing of the Dibble Memorial Library, preparatory demolition has is underway. Bookshelves were removed in July, soon followed by the deconstruction of the large SRS Timeline. The museum will be closed from September 7th-17th to accommodate the installation of the new panels and artifacts. This exhibit will be open to the public in October 2022. Through a combination of interactive and educational activities, visitors will learn about the legacy of Savannah River Plant operations, from the facility's ambitious construction to the future goals of the Savannah River Site.

A special thank you to all of the volunteers who have put in the work to help make the installation of this exhibit possible. Andy Albensius, Rex Nordeen, and David Wilkerson have donated their time and expert skills to keep the installation on schedule!



Susie Ferrara, SRS Cold War Project Manager, (left) Jason Armstrong, NNSA-SR Field Office Manager, (middle) and Mary Beth Reed, New South Associates President (right), chat about the incoming exhibit.



Jason Armstrong, NNSA -SR Field Office Manager (far left) and Jeff Allison, NNSA-SR Deputy Field Office Manager (middle), view the digital kiosk in the 6000 Stories exhibit.

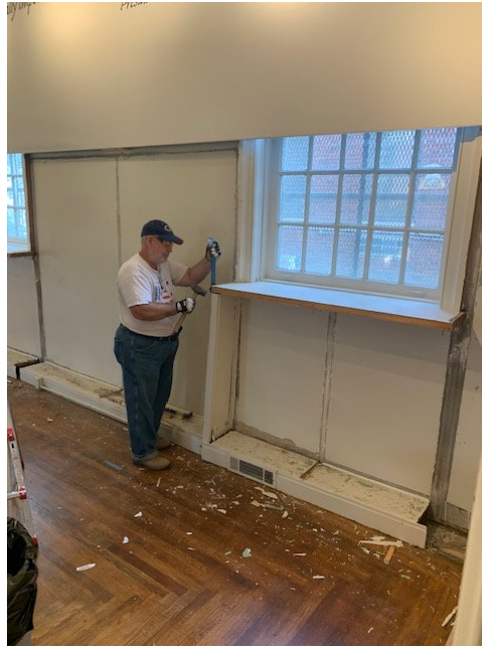
View the Dibble "North Wing" progress below!



(Image 1) The bookshelves behind the docent desk have been removed. Here, Rex Nordeen applies glue to the wall in preparation for the wooden panel that will be added.



(Image 2) SRSM intern Ches Mathis (left) and New South Associates Historian, Josh Blackmon (right), ensure the metal timeline is secure.



(Image 3) SRS Heritage Foundation Member and SRSM Volunteer, David Wilkerson, assists in the removal of the bookshelf that was behind the timeline. This will give more room for the new exhibit light box that will be installed.

(Image 4) Andy Albenesius, Chairman of the SRS Heritage Foundation (left), works to remove a section of bookshelf on the North Wall. David Wilkerson (right) removes debris.





(Image 5) Ches Mathis, SRS Museum intern, poses beside a newly paneled wall.



(Image 6) A view of the North Wing as of August 2022.

Updates on Education and Outreach

SRSM has recently collaborated with Ruth Patrick Science Center to host the STEM Forward Careers Summer Camp from July 18th-22nd. Campers were at SRSM on July 20th to learn about STEM Careers at SRS, Radiation Science, and Aiken's rich Cold War history.

The SRSM Educational Program also welcomed the Bethlehem Baptist Enrichment Program. Overall, a total of 51 students and adults rotated through the museum. Each group learned about SRS history and participated in STEM activities. The students also visited Todd Lista's "Cafe Scientifique" and were able to meet guest speakers who have experience in various STEM fields. The group rounded out their time with a tour through the Center for African American History, Art and Culture.

Lastly, the SRSM Educational Specialist, Evelyn Berry spent a day with a group of Cub Scouts to help them earn a STEM NOVA patch. The scouts participated in STEM activities and went home with a special SRSM patch as well.



SRSM Educational Specialist, Evelyn Berry (far right), discusses the history of SRS within the Cold War during the STEM Forward Careers Summer Camp.

Cold War Declassified Lesson Plan



Students from the Bethlehem Baptist Enrichment Program tour the mock fallout shelter in the museum, while Evelyn discusses the concept of radiation.

Duck and Cover Lesson Plan

In the News!



You may have spotted the museum in the Aiken Standard on July 11, 2022! The SRSM was featured in an article that highlighted the mission of the museum as well as the support behind the programs. Longenecker and Associates generously donated \$1000 to the SRS Heritage Foundation and Museum, and we are excited to use these funds to improve our exhibits and outreach. We appreciate the support from our community partners!

If you are **interested in donating** to the SRS Heritage Foundation, follow the link below.

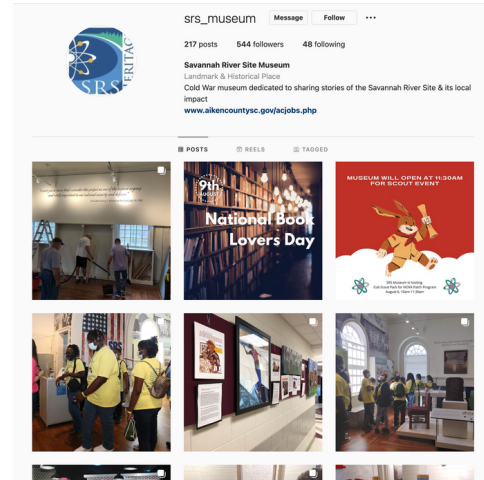
(Image: SRSM Director, Kelly Brown (left), accepts a check from Longenecker and Associates employees Sierra Madison (middle) and Monica Ruffin (right).

[Donate!](#)

Want to Help?

- Attend our upcoming events
- Schedule a group tour
- Join our volunteer team
- Follow our social media

Follow our Instagram



Thanks to Our Sponsors!

As always, we would also like to thank our generous SRS Heritage Foundation and Museum Sponsors who have made substantial contributions to Foundation programs. Thank you!





Special Thanks to our SRS Heritage Foundation Members

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