

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee



October 2020

Manhattan Project History in October

- DuPont was put in charge of the plutonium production project in October of 1942.
- Once considered to be a potential uranium separation method, centrifuge separation was abandoned in October 1942 due to technical problems.
- On October 15, 1942 J. Robert Oppenheimer was asked to head Project Y, later known as Los Alamos scientific research laboratory.
- The first Alpha racetrack was completed in October 1943 but fails to start due to unforeseen shorts in the magnets.
- Hanford B Reactor site preparation began on October 10, 1943.
- Construction of the X-10 Graphite Reactor was completed on October 31, 1943 and goes critical for the first time in the early hours of the morning a few days later.
- J. Robert Oppenheimer accepted a position at CalTech and resigned as director of Los Alamos Laboratory on October 16, 1945 and Norris Bradbury becomes the director for the next 25 years.

As a way to visually capture the recent photography exhibit in the K25 History Museum Changing Gallery, Explore Oak Ridge partnered with the Department of Energy and the National Park Service to create a video titled "In the Days of Mud", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYtW9F08iYY>.



Walk Through Wheat with a Ranger on Saturday, October 3 at 10 am ET. The walk will be approximately 1.5 miles with stops to discuss points of interest in 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.



Join Rangers on Our Newest Program, Paddle with a Ranger on October 24th.

Grab Your Helmet and Bike with a Ranger along Melton Lake Greenway Saturday, October 10 at 10 am ET. We'll stop several times to point out the rich history that is found within the Oak Ridge area. We'll start at Elza Gate Park, 101 Oak Ridge Turnpike. The ride will be ~ 8 miles round trip so bring drinking water.

Paddle with A Ranger on Saturday October 24 at 10 am ET starting at Melton Lake Park. We'll discuss the history of the Manhattan Project and Clinch River. All participants must wear a US Coast Guard approved PFD. Programs may be cancelled due to unsafe weather.

Put on Your Best Manhattan Project Themed Costume or Come as You are for a Walk With a Ranger through Jackson Square on Saturday, October 31 starting at 2 pm ET. We'll start outside Oak Ridge Playhouse. Along the way we'll discuss the history of Town Center Number 1 and tell stories of alleged hauntings of buildings within Oak Ridge as well as other scary stories. We will not enter any buildings and visitors will be encouraged to socially distance.

**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
www.facebook.com/ManhattanProjectNPS
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