

Ninth Annual Asteroid Day  
Saturday, June 29, 10 am – 4 pm  
Throughout the Chabot Campus

Join us as we partner with B612 Foundation for a full day of interactive, fun and informative presentations and activities marking the 9th annual International Asteroid Day on Saturday, June 29, from 10 am to 5 pm. Featured guests include NASA astronauts Rusty Schweickart, Steve Smith and Nicole Stott, who will be joined by other experts and scientists, including astronomer and YouTuber Scott Manley and Chabot's own beloved astronomer Gerald McKeegan to engage, educate and inspire. You'll learn first-hand about the importance of asteroids and the science and business of space.

**Schedule:**

**Back to Earth with Nicole Stott**

10:30am – 11:15am  
Planetarium

Astronaut Nicole Stott is an engineer and artist who flew twice on both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. On her post-NASA mission, she is a technical and creative consultant, motivational speaker, and advocate for all we do in space that is ultimately for the benefit of all life on Earth. Nicole is also extremely proud of her role as a founding director of the [Space for Art Foundation](#) — uniting a planetary community of children through the awe and wonder of space exploration and the healing power of art.

**Back to Earth Book Signing with Nicole Stott**

11:15am-11:45am  
Rotunda

In *Back to Earth*, Stott imparts essential lessons in problem-solving, survival, and crisis response that each of us can practice to make change. She knows we can overcome differences to address global issues, because she saw this every day on the International Space Station. Stott shares stories from her spaceflight and insights from scientists, activists, and changemakers working to solve our greatest environmental challenges. Books will be for sale at the Chabot Space & Science Center Gift Shop.

**Defending Earth at the Chabot Observatory with Astronomer Gerald McKeegan**

11:30am-12:15pm

## Theater

Every year, dozens of asteroids pass by the Earth closer than the distance between the Earth and the Moon. Most are small and pass safely by the Earth, but it is inevitable that an asteroid will someday strike the Earth, with the potential to do massive harm to both people and property. Asteroid Day is an annual event to highlight the potential for an asteroid impact, the global efforts to find near-Earth asteroids, and the possibilities for deflecting a threatening asteroid. This talk will describe the event that inspired Asteroid Day, and will discuss how astronomers at Chabot Space & Science Center search for and track near-Earth asteroids.

### **An Astronaut's Journey: Childhood Dreams to Riding Rockets with Steve Smith**

12:30pm-1:15pm

Planetarium

Steve Smith dreamed of being an astronaut at age 7. Then he made his dream come true through sheer determination and intelligent risk taking. He is one of America's most experienced astronauts with 4 spaceflights and 7 spacewalks to repair the Hubble Space Telescope and build the Space Station. During the 3-decade pursuit of his dream he became a Stanford electrical engineer and MBA, General Motors Fellow, pilot, elite collegiate athlete, and IBM Product Manager. At NASA Steve held multiple senior leadership positions, including as the Deputy Chief Astronaut leader to 135 astronauts, and served as a Diplomat. He now uses this one-of-a-kind experience base as a board director, venture capital advisor, and keynote speaker. Steve motivates audiences to use his lessons learned – an “Explorer's Mindset™” and disciplined protocols - to improve individual, team, and leadership performance and a company's bottom line in today's dynamic highly-competitive business environment.

### **Astronaut Photo Opportunity with Rusty Schweickart, Nicole Stott and Steve Smith**

1:30pm-2:15pm

Observation Deck

Join us on the Observation Deck for your chance to get a photo with our esteemed astronaut guests, Rusty Schweickart, Nicole Stott and Steve Smith.

## **Scott Manley Talk**

2:30pm – 3:15pm

Theater

## **Schweickart Prize Presentation with Rusty Schweickart, Steve Smith, Nicole Stott & Scott Manley**

3:30pm-4:30pm

Planetarium

Meet the winner of the 2024 Schweickart Prize as they receive their Meteorite Prize and \$10,000 award from Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart. Following the ceremony, astronauts Steve Smith, Nicole Stott, and renowned science YouTuber Scott Manley will engage the winner in a Q&A session. This event showcases the next generation of leaders, technologists, and teachers in space science and planetary defense, offering a unique opportunity to witness groundbreaking ideas and inspire the next generation of leaders, technologists, and teachers.

The Schweickart Prize, established in 2023, recognizes innovative student ideas for planetary defense. It was created to honor Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart and his work in space exploration and planetary defense.

### **Activities 10am-4pm:**

B612 Table in the Mezzanine

Asteroid Day Table in the Mezzanine

Art in Space activity in Studio 3

Selfie Station with B612 in Studio 3

Chabot Activities throughout the Center

## **Bios**

Rusty Schweickart ([photo](#))

Former aeronautical engineer and Apollo 9 astronaut, Rusty Schweickart served as a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot and the backup commander for Skylab-2. He held various positions in

government and co-founded the Association of Space Explorers, B612 Foundation, and Asteroid Day. He has received numerous accolades for his contributions to space exploration and planetary defense.

Nicole Stott ([photo](#))

Astronaut Nicole Stott is an engineer and artist who flew several missions on both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. She is a co-founder of the Space for Art Foundation and advocates for the intersection of space exploration and art to inspire global unity and creativity.

Steve Smith ([photo](#))

Astronaut Steve Smith flew on several Space Shuttle missions and performed seven spacewalks. An engineer and pilot, he contributed significantly to the Hubble Space Telescope servicing missions. Smith continues to advocate for space exploration and STEM education, inspiring future generations through his public speaking and outreach efforts.

Scott Manley ([photo](#))

Renowned science communicator and YouTuber Scott Manley is known for his engaging videos on space, science, and technology. With a background in astrophysics and a talent for making complex topics accessible, Manley has inspired a global audience. He combines educational content with gaming, particularly focusing on Kerbal Space Program, to teach and entertain.

Gerald McKeegan

Gerald McKeegan is a volunteer and adjunct astronomer at the Chabot Space & Science Center. Gerald also serves on Chabot's Board of Directors, and is a member of the Eastbay Astronomical Society.

McKeegan holds a Master of Science Degree in Space Studies, and has over 40 years experience working in the space industry, where he was involved with numerous science and commercial spacecraft projects, including the Space Shuttle, Cassini, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Juno and many others. In 1988, he was awarded the NASA "Silver Snoopy" award by the NASA Astronaut Office for his work in support of the Post-Challenger Space Shuttle Return to Flight program.

McKeegan also heads Chabot's near-Earth asteroid search and tracking program, having made more than 2,500 asteroid observations using Chabot's 36-inch telescope.

