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Bullock Museum turning blue this summer

Active military families can visit free May 30 through Sept. 5, 2016

MAY 27, 2016 (AUSTIN, TX) — The Bullock Texas State History Museum is proud to announce the launch of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and museums across America, to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2016.

The Bullock Museum is one of more than 2,000 museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa taking part in the initiative. A complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

"The Bullock Museum offers military discounts for all of its exhibitions and films in an effort to provide educational and entertainment opportunities all year long," Director Dr. Victoria Ramirez said. "We are excited to expand this offer to include free exhibition admission all summer to active military members and their families. It makes the Bullock Museum a great summer travel destination."

Our Global Kitchen: Food, Nature, Culture is a 7,000-square-foot special exhibition on view through July 24 that features rare artifacts, video experiences and interactives exploring the intersection of food, nature, history and human culture. A full slate of programs and a tasting kitchen powered by Whole Foods Market offers opportunities for visitors to taste seasonal treats.

They also can experience the sights and sounds of an Aztec marketplace, cook virtual dishes from around the world, and discover the elements of the last meal eaten by a 5,000-year-old mummified human.



The Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin will offer free admission for active military and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Military discounts are available for IMAX and special-effects movies.

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Another special exhibition, *Journey Into Big Bend*, is on view all summer and features a 75-million-year-old giant crocodile skull and other fossils, large-scale images of Big Bend National Park and more.

Both exhibitions and the Texas History Galleries are included in the free admission offer through Blue Star Museums, which has become a nationally recognized program that helps bring local military and civilian communities together and offers families fun and enriching activities where they live. Leadership support is provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families for the program which provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage.

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps - and up to five family members.

The Bullock Museum also offers military discounts on documentaries and Hollywood feature films that show daily in the museum's IMAX® Theatre. Located in downtown Austin, the museum features on-site parking, a café and museum store. Follow @BullockMuseum on Facebook and Twitter to find out about upcoming programs, or visit TheStoryofTexas.com for a full calendar of exhibitions, events and programs.

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Our Global Kitchen education programs and kitchen sponsored by Whole Foods Market. *Our Global Kitchen* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York. *Journey Into Big Bend* education programs sponsored by: Big Bend Chamber of Commerce; Forever Resorts, LLC; Gage Hotel; and Visit Big Bend. Support for the Bullock Museum's exhibitions and education programs provided by the Texas State History Museum Foundation.

MEDIA Images and Assets: <http://bit.ly/BullockBlueStar>

ABOUT THE BULLOCK MUSEUM

The Bullock Texas State History Museum includes three floors of exhibitions, IMAX® and 4D special-effects theaters, a café and museum store. The Museum collaborates with more than 700 museums, libraries, archives and individuals to display original historical artifacts and host exhibitions that illuminate and celebrate Texas history and culture. For more, visit TheStoryofTexas.com or call (512) 936-8746.

ABOUT BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Blue Star Families (BSF) is a national, nonprofit network by and for military families from all ranks and services, including active duty, National Guard and reserves. As the largest and fastest growing military family engagement organization in the country, Blue Star Families forges extraordinary partnerships resulting in 1.5 million military family members served annually through programs and resources with 50 chapters at home and overseas. To learn more about Blue Star Families' opportunities for service members, military families and civilians, visit www.bluestarfam.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to strengthen the creative

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capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

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