Exploring the Final Frontier

Happy 60th anniversary, NASA! On October 1, 1958 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration officially opened its doors for business after Congress passed legislation creating a civilian agency to coordinate U.S. activities in space. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act on July 29, 1958, establishing NASA as the replacement for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

In celebration of NASA’s anniversary, we invite you to explore our holdings to discover the fascinating story of the creation of this agency and the story of space exploration.

View more GIFs from our NASA holdings

Browse our interactive timeline to journey through events with select records from the National Archives Catalog.
Explore NASA-related lessons and activities for the classroom, based on primary sources in the holdings of the National Archives.

You can help make the history of space exploration more accessible by participating in one
of our tagging missions.

And be sure to check out our 60 new space-related historic GIFs on our GIPHY channel to share with your friends on your favorite social platform.

New in the Catalog

**Lighthouse Plans and Maps, 1793 - 1939**
This series consists of mostly manuscript lighthouse construction plans and location maps. These records include building elevations, floor plans, architectural details, lantern plans, site plans, and topographic maps. 572 new images have been recently been added to this series.