



# Dream big, aim higher.

## Countdown

2979 Days to the Moon

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**1957**    **October 4, 1957**  
The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1, the first satellite in space.

**1958**    **July 29, 1958**  
Congress creates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**1958–1963**  
Project Mercury, a series of twenty unmanned and six manned missions with the goal of launching the first American into space

**1961**    **April 12, 1961**  
Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first person in space.

**May 5, 1961**  
Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space on the Project Mercury spacecraft Freedom 7.

**May 25, 1961**  
President John F. Kennedy announces his goal of landing a man on the Moon “before the decade is out.”

**1961–1966**  
Project Gemini, a series of ten manned missions with the goals of determining the effects of long-term space travel on astronauts and developing space travel techniques

**1963**    **November 22, 1963**  
President Kennedy is assassinated.

**1967**    **January 27, 1967**  
The Apollo 1 crew loses their lives in a launchpad fire.

**November 9, 1967**  
Apollo 4

**1968**    **January 22, 1968**  
Apollo 5

**April 4, 1968**  
Apollo 6

**October 11–22, 1968**  
Apollo 7

**December 21–27, 1968**  
Apollo 8

**1969**    **March 3–13, 1969**  
Apollo 9

**May 18–26, 1969**  
Apollo 10

**July 16–July 24, 1969**  
Apollo 11

**July 20, 1969**  
Neil Armstrong becomes the first human to set foot on the surface of the Moon.

**November 14–24, 1969**  
Apollo 12

**1970**    **April 11–17, 1970**  
Apollo 13

**1971**    **January 31–February 9, 1971**  
Apollo 14

**July 26–August 7, 1971**  
Apollo 15

**1972**    **April 16–27, 1972**  
Apollo 16

**December 7–19, 1972**  
Apollo 17, the final mission of the Apollo program