



Status of Space Shuttle Program airs live today on NASA TV

Visitor Complex offers holiday discount at retail shops

▲ NASA Announces Space Shuttle Program Media Update

Today: NASA will brief news media about the Space Shuttle Program at 2 p.m. today. The news conference will air live on the Web and NASA TV from the agency's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Space Shuttle Program Manager Wayne Hale will discuss the program, provide an update on processing Discovery for the next mission (STS-121), and discuss work to complete testing and foam application on the orbiters' external fuel tanks. Questions will be taken from media at participating NASA locations.

▲ Visitor Complex Holiday Discounts for Kennedy Space Center Employees:

Beginning Friday through Dec. 24, all badged KSC and CCAFS employees receive a 30 percent discount at all Visitor Complex retail locations, including the Space Shop at the main Visitor Complex and the gift shop at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Present your badge at the will-call ticket window to receive a limited admission ticket. You must present your badge at the time of admission and purchase. This offer is not transferable and cannot be combined with any other discount. For more information, call 321-449-4444.

■ **MRO Halfway to Mars** — NASA's Mars Reconnaissance

Orbiter successfully fired six engines for about 20 seconds Nov. 18 to adjust its flight path in advance of its March 10 arrival at the red planet. Since its Aug. 12 launch, the multipurpose spacecraft has covered about 60 percent of the distance for its trip from Earth to Mars. It will fly about 40 million kilometers (25 million miles) farther before it enters orbit around Mars. It will spend half a year gradually adjusting the shape of its orbit, then begin its science phase. During that phase, it will return more data about Mars than all previous missions combined. The spacecraft has already set a record transmission rate for an interplanetary mission, successfully returning data at 6 megabits per second, fast enough to fill a CD-ROM every 16 minutes.

■ **Education Opportunity** — Registration is now open for the spring semester courses available through the University of Florida College of Engineering UF EDGE (Electronic Delivery of Graduate Engineering) program. Registration ends Jan. 6 and classes begin Jan. 9. Course listings/syllabi are online at <http://ufedge.eng.ufl.edu>. UF EDGE offers flexible online programs for busy engineering professionals. Program areas include electrical engineering; general computer engineering/computer science; computer engineering/computer science with an emphasis on

bioinformatics; civil engineering; environmental engineering with a specialization in water resources planning and management; mechanical and aerospace engineering with specializations in thermal fluids transport and in solid mechanics and design; and in materials science and engineering. Graduate certificate programs in environmental policy and management and in materials science and engineering are also available.

■ **Remember** — to help KSC and CCAFS save energy dollars:

- Turn off your computer, monitor and printer (if not required to remain on).
- Turn off the lights in your office when you are the last person to leave.
- Turn off the hall and hall closet lights on your way out if you are the last person to leave your area in the building.
- Turn off displays and decorative lights.
- Turn off or unplug any appliances in the office, such as coffee makers, desk lamps, fans, radios, etc.
- Turn off the copier machines (including in hallways) and scanners.
- Close the blinds on all windows.

■ **Did You Know?** Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be another issue of KSC Countdown until Nov. 29.