



# countdown

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## STS-123 crew completes launch dress rehearsal



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

In preparation for the next mission, STS-123, the crew arrived Saturday for the terminal countdown demonstra-

tion test, or TCDT. After examining the payload in space shuttle Endeavour's payload bay and practicing emergency egress procedures from the pad, they concluded with a full dress rehearsal for launch countdown. The crew returned to Houston on Monday, but will be back March 7 to prepare for the actual launch targeted for 2:28 a.m. EDT March 11.

◆ **Get Ready for 2008 KSC All-American Picnic:** The All-American Picnic will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 29 at the Kennedy Athletic, Recreation and Social (KARS) Park I. All Kennedy civil service, contractor and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station personnel associated with a NASA program are invited.

Scheduled activities include live music, community and KSC exhibitions, children's games, a car and motorcycle show, the Chili Cook-Off, rock-climbing walls, a magic act, Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution Xbox games, astronaut autographs, a space art exhibition, a live tiger act, and much more.

The lunch menu will be hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and chicken sandwiches. Additional food items available include roasted corn on the cob, ice cream, popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. Soft drinks, water and beer will be provided throughout the day.

Tickets will be on sale March 17 at a cost of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3 through 12. Children under 3 years are free. Tickets purchased after March 26 will cost an additional \$2 per ticket.

Many volunteers are needed to make this event successful. If you volunteer for a period of two hours, you can purchase a discounted ticket for \$4 and receive a "2008 KSC All-American Picnic Volunteer" baseball hat. The call for volunteers begins Friday when the Web site becomes active. Please make plans to bring your families to enjoy a day of fun, camaraderie, entertainment and plenty of food and drink.

■ **Columbia Recovery and Reconstruction Team Five-Year Reunion at the Ballpark** — The reunion will be held at 1 p.m. March 1 in the BERM\* at Space Coast Stadium in Viera before the game between the Washington Nationals and the Baltimore Orioles. All tickets are \$8 and are available from the individuals listed below to all NASA employees and contractors and their families. The all-American picnic menu features hamburgers, rotisserie-style BBQ chicken, hot dogs, potato chips, cole slaw, popcorn, watermelon and soda. (\*Overflow will be seated in the stands.)

For tickets, go to:

- ◆ ARF MOB (TR3-034), Room 100E/Caryn Antes, 861-8186
- ◆ Hangar N, Room 200/Linnette Daniels, 853-9261
- ◆ SSPF (M7-360), Room 1026C/Edie Glen, 867-6729

## Mark calendars on March 29 for All-American Picnic

- ◆ NSLD-2, Room 659/Debbie Doyle, 799-7002
- ◆ OPF-3, Room 2147Q/Sharon Rechkemmer, 861-3170
- ◆ OSB-1 (K6-1096), Room 4301K/Wanda Redmond, 861-3510
- ◆ Titusville, Room 323/Karen Cross, 264-8102
- ◆ OPF Annex (K6-894), Room 3086/Janice Bower, 861-0571
- ◆ LCC, Room 4R8/Amy Luth, 861-4321



■ **NASA Science** — Do you know who's orbiting the moon? The answer might surprise you. You can read the full story at

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/20feb\\_orbiting-themoon.htm?list29875](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/20feb_orbiting-themoon.htm?list29875).

■ **Last Chance** — Tickets are still available for the African-American History Month luncheon to be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the Kurt Debus Conference Center. The deadline to purchase tickets has been extended to Wednesday. Please contact Terrasena Jones at 867-3950, HQ/Room 3257K if you are interested. Less than 40 tickets are available for sale, so when the tickets are gone, they are gone!

*Countdown* is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.barrett@jbossc.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:anita.barrett@jbossc.ksc.nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at [nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html](http://nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html).