



countdown

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Weather a "go" for launch of Discovery Wednesday



◆ Shuttle Update:

Weather for the launch of space shuttle Discovery's STS-119 mission Wednesday evening remains favorable according to the latest forecast. There still is a 90 percent chance that weather will not interfere with the 9:20 p.m. EDT liftoff, with only a slight concern for a low cloud ceiling. The forecast for a 24-hour delay has improved to a 90 percent chance of "go" weather. A 48-hour delay still calls for an 80 percent chance of favorable weather, with a slight chance of rain showers within 20 nautical miles of Kennedy's Shuttle Landing Facility.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA officials will hold a media briefing from Johnson Space Center at 2 p.m. EDT on Wednesday to discuss the 19th long-duration mission aboard the International Space Station. The Expedition 19 mission will set the stage for the doubling of station crew members who will live and work in space for as long as six months at a time. The briefing will be broadcast live on NASA Television.

The participants are Kirk Shireman, International Space Station deputy program manager; Courtenay McMillian, Expedition 19/20 lead flight director; Ben Pawlik, Expedition 19/20 increment manager; and Julie Robinson, International Space Station Program scientist.

Expedition 19 begins March 26 when Commander Gennady Padalka of Russia and NASA Flight Engineer Michael Barratt launch aboard the Soyuz TMA-14 vehicle from the Baikonur

Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. They will replace Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke and Flight Engineer Yuri Lonchakov, who will return to Earth on April 7. Padalka and Barratt's other crewmate is Koichi Wakata of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, who will travel to the station on space shuttle Discovery on the STS-119 mission. Padalka, Barratt and Wakata will continue science investigations and prepare for the arrival of the rest of the station's first six-person crew.



■ O&C Blood Drive

— The blood drive will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 18. All blood donors will receive:

- *a mini bloodmobile Big Red Bus squeeze toy
- *a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich coupon
- *a free Dunkin Donuts coffee coupon
- *a Fantastic Sams discount – 50 percent off an adult haircut
- *a Sports Clips coupon - free MVP service with purchase of a regular haircut
- *a \$10 gift card to LaBella Spa
- *(while supplies last at participating locations)*

Please note: Free diabetes screening is provided when you give blood.

■ **Reminder for Spring Cleaning** — Bring your bargains, art and crafts, etc., to the KSC "Spring Cleaning" Flea Market sponsored by the NASA Exchange. The flea market will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 28 at KARS Park I, located at 1300 East Hall Road (off S.R. 3). Table reservation is open to all KSC and

ISS crew changing to prepare for six-person station crew

CCAFS employees on a first-come, first-served basis for \$10. If you need more space, 15 booths for \$30 each (booths are limited) are available.

Reserve your table or booth today by calling Annette Myers at 867-0431 to obtain an application form. All application forms must be completed and submitted with payment to HQ/Room 2328 by March 20. This event will be open to the public.

■ **Philatelic Cancellations** — As a service to KSC employees, the KSC Post Office will hold philatelic envelopes for



cancellation on the day of launch. Cachet envelopes bearing the mission emblem of the upcoming shuttle launch may be chased at the NASA Exchange Stores. Stamped, addressed envelopes may be deposited in the designated drop box in HQ/Room 1546. Do not place loose launch envelopes in the outgoing U.S. Mail without instructions; they may be canceled and mailed the same day received. For further information, please call the KSC Post Office, 867-3752.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/new/s/countdown/countdown_toc.html.