



# countdown

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## Ares I-X segments arriving by train today

## Sign up your children for KSC camp during spring break



◆ **Constellation Update:** The train carrying the Ares I-X motor segments for the upcoming test flight this summer arrives at KSC today.

The four reusable motor segments, manufactured by the Ares I first stage prime contractor Alliant Techsystems Inc., departed Utah March 13, on the seven-day, cross-country trip to Florida.

The Ares I-X test flight will provide NASA an early opportunity to test and prove hardware, facilities and ground operations associated with the Ares I crew launch vehicle. It also will allow NASA to gather critical data during ascent of the integrated Orion crew exploration vehicle and the Ares I rocket. The data will ensure the entire vehicle system is safe and fully operational before astronauts begin traveling to orbit.

Another milestone in the program was the successful testing of a 50,000-pound "dummy" rocket booster dropped on the Arizona desert. The Ares moon rocket is going to have a reusable booster stage that will be recovered after each mission. The Ares booster recovery parachute system consists of a small pilot

chute, which pulls out the drogue chute; a drogue chute, and three main parachutes. All three components are being subjected to testing.

◆ **Send Your Children to Break Camp** — Camp KSC offers children entering second through ninth grade an out-of-this-world experience to explore space. Spring camp sessions are available March 30 through April 10.

Regular tuition is \$295 per child per session. Badged employees and contractors of KSC, CCAFS, Patrick Air Force Base and retired KSC personnel can save 15 percent on regular camp tuition. The home of Camp KSC is at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Spring camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extended early drop-off and late pick-up hours available free for badged employees.

Campers receive a complimentary Commander's Club annual pass – a full year of fun at the KSC Visitor Complex. Also included are lunches and afternoon snacks, official Camp KSC t-shirt, Camp KSC graduation ceremony and certificate of completion.

For more information and registration details, call 321-449-4444 or visit: [www.KennedySpaceCenter.com](http://www.KennedySpaceCenter.com).

■ **Final Opportunity For KSC All-American Picnic Survey** — This is your last chance to critique the KSC All-American Picnic. The survey will remain online through Friday at the picnic Web site: <http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

If you experience any difficulties accessing or working within the survey,

please contact Laurie Brown at 867-4166.

■ **Reminder** — Ride the wave of technology at the ODIN IT Expo 2009 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **today** in the O&C Mission Briefing Room (O&C/1144). Some of the vendors will include Microsoft, Dell, Apple, Kingston and Fujitsu.

■ **Last Chance To Name the Next ISS Module** — Node 3 will arrive at KSC this spring and is targeted for delivery to the ISS in late 2009. Individuals can vote for the module's name online, choosing one of four NASA suggestions -- Earthrise, Legacy, Serenity or Venture -- or writing in a name. Submissions will be accepted through **Friday**. The name should reflect the spirit of exploration and cooperation embodied by the space station and follow in the tradition set by Node 1, named "Unity," and Node 2, named "Harmony."

For more information, to submit a name and to view pictures of the node and cupola, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/namenode3>.

■ **Did You Know?** Spring begins on Friday!

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](mailto:anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find archived PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at:

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