

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 1, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

**General Law Practice Group**

**TO:** Distribution

**FROM:** Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

**SUBJECT:** Determination Regarding Attendance at the Federation of Galaxy Explorers  
Galaxy Ball, June 3, 2006

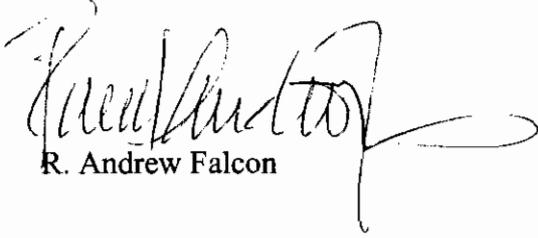
On June 3, 2006, the Federation of Galaxy Explorers will hold its second annual Galaxy Ball at the Crystal Gateway Marriot. The Federation is a nonprofit organization which inspires and educates children in space related science and engineering disciplines. Through the Federation, adult volunteers provide children with a "hands on" understanding of space science, earth science, engineering, and rocketry.

The Galaxy Ball will be a widely attended gathering of approximately 350 including people from the corporate and federal government sectors, as well as volunteers who have supported the Federation's education activities. In addition, the Federation's Space Leadership Award--which is presented to the individual who, above all others, demonstrates superior leadership before the public to advance the exploration and development of space--will be presented this year to NASA Administrator Michael Griffin. Tickets to the reception and dinner, valued at \$ 120 per person, are being offered to some NASA personnel at no cost. Although member corporations provide open seating at their tables to accommodate guests invited by the Federation, the Federation is solely responsible for selecting, inviting, and seating NASA guests.

Attendance at the Ball will allow NASA representatives to establish an agency presence at an event celebrating work done by the Federation and its volunteers to stimulate children to pursue careers in science and engineering. Attendance will also allow NASA personnel to exchange views relating to NASA's mission with individuals from the corporate and non-profit sectors, the Hill, and other federal agencies.

I find that the Galaxy Ball meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that such free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses (or other guests), if invited, may attend the Galaxy Ball on June 3, 2006, without charge.



R. Andrew Falcon