

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899



November 2, 2021

Reply to Attn of: CC

TO: All NASA Employees

FROM: CC/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees for the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex (KSCVC) Taste of Space: A Culinary Journey - November 5, 2021

The DNC Parks & Resorts at KSC, Inc. (DNC) will host the upcoming KSCVC Taste of Space: A culinary Journey on Friday, November 5, 2021, at the KSCVC. Approximately 220 people are expected to attend the event, which is open to the public. The guests will include representatives of Federal, state, and local government and members of the public. The value of attendance at the event journey is approximately \$159 a person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g), Gifts of Free Attendance at Widely Attended Gatherings, I find this event meets the requirements of a *widely attended gathering*, and I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend this event because their participation will further Agency programs and operations. Specifically, this event will provide a forum for the attendees to disseminate information on NASA's ongoing activities and to discuss matters of interest to NASA with a diverse group of fellow attendees. Because of these benefits to NASA, and having considered the factors enumerated in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(4), I also find that the Agency's interest in NASA employees' attendance outweighs the concern that such employees may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of official duties.

Accordingly, NASA Kennedy Space Center employees whose duties do not substantially affect any of the sponsors, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13989, may accept an invitation for complimentary attendance at this event. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties or administration of Space Act agreements, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from the Office of the General Counsel.

Accordingly, I have determined that NASA invitees may accept their invitations for complimentary attendance at this event in accordance with the ethics rules. NASA attendees are

reminded to exercise any COVID-19 precautions and obtain any administrative approvals related to COVID safety appropriate to their individual situation. Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year. We understand that DNC will be distributing a commemorative pin valued at \$2.00.

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Date: 2021.11.02 15:55:34 -04'00'

Daniel P. Shaver
Agency Designee