

**Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**  
2101 NASA Parkway  
Houston, TX 77058-3696



January 16, 2026

Reply to Attn of: **AL-26-002**

**TO:** Distribution

**FROM:** AL/Chief Counsel

**SUBJECT:** Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the International Space Station 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Permanent Human Presence event on January 19, 2026

On January 19, 2026, Space Center Houston (SCH) will host the International Space Station (ISS) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Permanent Human Presence event at their facility on NASA Parkway from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. SCH is operated by the Manned Space Flight Education Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and serves as the official visitor center for NASA's Johnson Space Center. This ticketed event will celebrate 25 years of continuous human presence aboard the ISS. For a quarter century, astronauts from around the world have lived and worked in low Earth orbit, supported by teams on the ground who help make the mission possible. Research and operations aboard the ISS have built the knowledge and experience needed for future missions to the Moon and, eventually, Mars. SCH is planning, organizing, and issuing invitations for this event. Federal contractors, The Boeing Company, Barrios Technology, Honeywell International Inc., Aegis Aerospace Inc., JES Tech LLC, Amentum Services Inc., and Leidos Inc. are sponsors of the event.

The event offers two levels of attendance. Tickets for general admission are being offered for \$15; VIPs are being offered free admission. General admission includes admittance to the event which will consist of passed appetizers, a cash bar, musical entertainment, and the presentation of ISS videos in the SCH theater. The VIP Hour will precede the general event from 5:30-6:30 pm and will include an open bar, in addition to the other amenities being provided. Parking is complimentary for all attendees. All attendees will receive ISS memorabilia, such as ISS calendars, decals and lapel pins, being provided by NASA. The estimated per person value of attendance is approximately \$22.50.

Approximately 1100 individuals are expected to attend the ceremony, including approximately 300 individuals at the VIP Hour. NASA personnel at the event will consist of senior NASA leadership, flight operations and ISS representatives, and other key Center and

program managers. VIP attendees are permitted one guest. In addition to NASA invitees, representatives from industry, academia, state and local government, as well as Congress, are also expected to attend.

This event is of interest to NASA and will serve as a forum for facilitating the widest practicable dissemination of information concerning the Agency and its activities. This event will further Agency programs or operations including promoting community relations and providing the opportunity for the exchange of views and information between leaders within the Agency and a variety of academic, business, and leaders within the community. The event also celebrates NASA's accomplishments in human spaceflight. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

NASA employees who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of SCH or the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of SCH, The Boeing Company, Barrios Technology, Honeywell International Inc., Aegis Aerospace Inc., JES Tech LLC, Amentum Services Inc., and Leidos Inc., such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

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