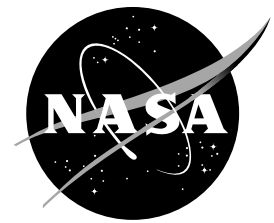


# NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

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## NASA's Educator Astronaut Program

### The Program

- Education is a core mission of NASA, and the addition of the unique skills and talents of America's best educators working on some of NASA's most ambitious missions will help the Agency to inspire the next generation of explorers.
- The Educator Astronaut Program supports NASA's Education mission and aims to motivate students and educators to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics; attract more people to the teaching profession; and, enable leading educators to reach beyond their local community and affect a larger, national audience.
- The Educator Astronaut will be a fully qualified member of NASA's Astronaut Corps trained to perform all of the functions and responsibilities (space walks, ISS deployment, experiment management, etc.) that the Agency's Mission Specialist astronauts are qualified to perform.
- By inviting and selecting educators to become Educator Astronauts and permanent members of the Astronaut Corps, these unique individuals will help NASA to explore bold frontiers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as the surrounding universe, in ways never before accomplished.
- Individuals selected to become Educator Astronauts will be eligible for multiple space flight opportunities during their service to NASA.
- Educator Astronauts will provide a direct connection between America's educators and students, and the various careers and opportunities associated with space exploration and the Nation's space program.
- Educator Astronaut Barbara Morgan has been selected for her first space flight, STS-118—a construction mission to the International Space Station. While all scheduled flights of the Space Shuttle are on hold until further notice, Barbara Morgan will fly in the future. NASA is flying missions currently on the International Space Station.

### The Process

- Educators who are U.S. citizens and certified K-12 educators with a minimum three years in-classroom teaching experience within the past four years are qualified to apply. They must also have a bachelor's degree in physical

science, biological science, engineering or mathematics, or an education degree with a concentration in physical science, biological science, engineering or mathematics. (A “concentration” is defined as study that included at least 18 and preferably 24 credit hours in the preferred subject area.) They must also be able to pass a NASA Class II Space Flight physical.

- Applications for Educator Astronauts are now being accepted until April 30, 2003. The application package is available through: <http://edspace.nasa.gov>.
- Students or other members of the public can nominate an educator to be considered for an Educator Astronaut position by placing a nomination at the program web site: <http://edspace.nasa.gov>. NASA will then invite the nominee to complete a formal application.
- The review and selection process for Educator Astronauts begins in late Spring 2003 following the April 30 application deadline. The process will culminate in the selection of 3-6 individuals to join the Astronaut Corps early in calendar year 2004.

## Engaging Others

- NASA will involve educators, parents, the general public and students—our next generation of explorers—during all phases of the Educator Astronaut recruitment, selection, training and flight process in multiple and inspirational ways.
- NASA is partnering with the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and a number of other public and private sector organizations to enhance the Educator Astronauts’ outreach and impact before, during and after their flights.

- Students, educators, parents and the public interested in participating in the program in their own ways will be invited to join the Educator Astronaut “Earth Crew.” The Earth Crew is a web-based initiative linking audiences with educational activities and programs, astronaut profiles and training information, basic information on living and working in space, NASA career profiles and more.
- All Educator Astronaut Program materials will be created to support national content standards for mathematics, science and technology.

## Information and Contacts

The web site for the Educator Astronaut program is <http://edspace.nasa.gov>.

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