

**Sally K. Ride, Ph.D.**, a former NASA Astronaut and the first American woman in space, is the President and CEO of Sally Ride Science - an innovative company dedicated to supporting girls' and boys' interests in math, science and technology, through its programs and publications.

Dr. Ride grew up in Los Angeles, California. She attended Stanford University where she earned her B.S. in Physics and B.A in English in 1973, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics in 1975 and 1978, respectively. Shortly thereafter, she was selected for NASA's astronaut corps. Her first space flight was aboard the Space Shuttle *Challenger* in 1983; her second was also aboard *Challenger*, in 1984. During those flights, she deployed communications satellites, operated the robot arm, and conducted experiments in materials, pharmaceuticals, and Earth remote-sensing.

Training for her third spaceflight was interrupted by the Space Shuttle *Challenger* accident. Dr. Ride served as a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the accident, and chaired its subcommittee on Operations. She then served as NASA's first director of Strategic Planning, producing a report entitled "Leadership and America's Future in Space." She also created, and was the first Director of, NASA's Office of Exploration.

In 1989, Dr. Ride joined the faculty at UCSD as a Professor of Physics and Director of the University of California's, California Space Institute. In 2001 she founded her own company, Sally Ride Science, to pursue her long-time passion: motivating girls and young women to pursue careers in science, math and technology.

Long an advocate for improved science education, Dr Ride has written six science books for children: *To Space and Back*; *Voyager*; *The Third Planet*; *The Mystery of Mars*, *Exploring Our Solar System* and, most recently, *Mission Planet Earth*. She has also initiated and directed education projects designed to fuel middle school students' fascination with science.

Dr. Ride has been a member of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology and the National Research Council's Space Studies Board, and has served on the Boards of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the NCAA Foundation. She is a member of the Corporate Directors' Forum, and has served on the Boards of Apple, Veridian and the Mitre Corporation. Dr. Ride is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, and currently serves on the Boards of the Aerospace Corporation and the California Institute of Technology. She is the only person to have served on the Commissions investigating both the Space Shuttle *Challenger* and *Columbia* accidents.

Dr. Ride has received numerous honors and awards. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame, and has received the Jefferson Award for Public Service, the von Braun Award, the Lindbergh Eagle, and the NCAA's Theodore Roosevelt Award. She has also

twice been awarded the National Spaceflight Medal, and was recently inducted into the California Hall of Fame.

In 2001, Dr. Ride founded Sally Ride Science™ - a science content company dedicated to keeping kids' interests in science, math and technology alive through innovative programs and publications that educate, engage and inspire.

While both girls and boys have natural interests and abilities in science, math and technology, society does not yet have equal expectations for — or offer equal support to — girls interested in these fields. A key part the company's mission is to make a difference in girls' lives and in society's perceptions of their roles in technical fields.