

Combined Federal Campaign begins

JSC officially kicked off the annual Combined Federal Campaign on October 11, establishing a goal of \$550,000 for 2000.

The theme for the Texas Gulf Coast CFC, of which JSC's efforts are a part, is "Rise to the Challenge." The JSC campaign will run through November 10.

The CFC was established by executive order in 1961 to provide a single charitable fund-raising campaign within the federal community. Except for relief drives and emergency disaster appeals, the CFC is the only authorized on-the-job charitable fund-raising campaign for federal civilian, military, and postal service employees. The CFC gives JSC employees the opportunity to contribute to local, national, and international health and welfare charities. The Office of Personnel Management establishes the regulations governing the CFC including the charities that participate in the campaign.

There are more than 1,500 charitable organizations in the Houston CFC. These charitable agencies are listed in a brochure which is available online through the HRO Homepage and with each coordinator. Employees may direct their contributions to the charitable organization(s) of their choice by listing the agency code on their pledge forms along with the dollar amount they wish to give to that charity.

JSC employees may participate through payroll deduction by specifying an amount to be withheld every payday that will continue throughout the year. Deductions for pledges made during this campaign will begin in January 2001. Payroll deduction is a convenient way to give.

Last year, JSC employees and retirees gave a record amount of more than \$554,000 of the \$2.6 million contributed by federal employees throughout the Houston area. This year, the CFC goal is \$2.75 million.

JSC CFC Coordinator Candy Hunt said there are some interesting incentives this year for employees who pledge one hour's pay or more. Those who pledge one hour's pay per month will receive a CFC lapel pin. Those who pledge two hours' pay will receive a lapel pin and a calculator. Those who pledge \$600 or more per year will receive a lapel pin, a calculator, and a personalized certificate of appreciation signed by a prominent Texan.

In addition, those employees contributing one hour's pay per month or more will be eligible for the drawing for five three-month reserved parking spaces. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the campaign. ■

For additional information, contact your organization coordinator or Hunt at x31836.

Space Center Houston opens doors to educators

Just weeks after JSC opened its doors to the community for Open House, Space Center Houston opened its doors to share an inside look at its attractions and educational programs to more than 500 K-12 teachers from across Texas.

The fifth annual Open House for Educators, held September 21, was designed to give teachers an opportunity to experience SCH's attractions, exhibits and educational resources.

"Every year we invite teachers to come out to see what's new at Space Center Houston and to find out about all of our different programs," said Laurie Murphy, Space Center Houston educational programs specialist. "Not only do we have programs for students, we also have a lot of professional development programs for teachers.

"NASA's Educator Resource Center is also located here at Space Center Houston, which offers free NASA materials to assist teachers with their classroom lessons. One of our goals is to help the teachers integrate those materials into their curriculum."

Open throughout the evening of Open House, the ERC drew a steady stream of interested teachers. Part of NASA's comprehensive education program, the ERC contributes to national educational goals by helping teachers expand and enhance their students' scientific and technological competence. Educators have immediate access to a wealth of information based on NASA's programs, technologies and discoveries.

Representatives from JSC's Education and Student Programs Branch handed out educational resources including brochures on NASA's student involvement programs, aerospace education services and distance learning opportunities as well as JSC educational Web site bookmarks and fact sheets on NASA careers.



Lori Wheaton of Indyne passes out educational materials during Open House for Educators at Space Center Houston.

Teachers from as far away as Dallas attended the Open House to learn how to incorporate the theme of space exploration into their classroom lessons.

Michelle Gifford, a fifth grade teacher at Deepwater Elementary School, works space-related themes into classroom lessons that span the entire curriculum from science and math to social science and reading. She says that working space-related themes into every subject makes learning fun. "We're always trying to find ways to make learning fun. If we find a fun way to teach different subjects, then the students are going to want to learn without realizing that it's learning that they're doing."

Gifford said that she attended the Open House to gather materials for a new class on space exploration. "We're starting a unit

on space and exploring the galaxies. I'm hoping to get a lot of information to take back and implement into the curriculum."

Vicki Williams, a fifth grade science teacher at Mae Smythe Elementary School, uses space as a theme in her classes to get her students to imagine making the impossible possible. "One of our units is 'Earth, Moon and Beyond.' We are trying to teach the children not to limit themselves to the Earth but to go beyond and to dream. If people didn't dream about going to the Moon, they never would have - they would have limited themselves. We need to teach the children not to limit their options. If they think something is possible, they need to figure out a way to make it possible. Just because we cannot do it now doesn't mean that we cannot do it in the future."

Dennis Spuck, dean of the School of Education at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, addressed the educators during a program held in the Space Center Theater. He discussed two new programs that the school is implementing. Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology is designed to help teachers incorporate the latest advances in technology into the classroom. Under the new Teacher-in-Residence Program kicked off this month, the university will invite a teacher from the public schools to join the UHCL faculty for a year. Spuck also discussed Web-based courses offered by the university - a topic of interest to busy teachers wishing to further their education.

NASA Astronaut Ellen Ochoa discussed her career and highlights from her three space shuttle missions. She showed two videos, one from her last mission - STS-96, the first docking to the space station - and "Living in Space," which recounts highlights from her STS-56 mission. The latter video, intended for students in kindergarten through second grade, discusses both the similarities and differences of living in space and on Earth in terms of sleeping, eating and other concerns. The video is part of the "Liftoff to Learning" series filmed specifically for teachers for use in classrooms.

"It's always enjoyable to speak to educators because they are so enthusiastic about learning new ways to engage students in math and science topics," said Ochoa.

The teachers were able to check out a presentation on the X-38, the Crew Return Vehicle being developed at JSC, and view three IMAX productions - *To Be An Astronaut*, *On Human Destiny* and *Mission to Mir*.

SCH and UHCL co-hosted the event. ■

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

General Cinema Theaters	\$5.50
Sony Loew's Theaters	\$5.50
AMC Theaters	\$5.00
Fiesta Texas	adult .. \$20.50 .. child (under 48 inches) .. \$17.25
Astroworld	1 day .. \$21.00
Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	\$9.25
Space Center Houston	adult .. \$11.00 .. child (age 4-11) .. \$7.25
(JSC civil service employees free.)	
Space Center Houston annual pass	\$18.75
Postage Stamps (book of 20)	\$6.60
September 30 - November 14	
Texas Renaissance Festival	adult .. \$16.00 .. child (age 5-12) .. \$6.50
October 21-22	
Wings Over Houston Air Show	adult .. \$10.75 .. child .. \$4.50
Franklin Planner Refills Classic Style	\$25.50
Franklin Planner Refills Seasons and Montecello	\$30.25

Check out our new website on the JSC People page at: <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/giftshop/>

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday
Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- ▶ All tickets are nonrefundable.
- ▶ Metro tokens and value cards are available.

Coming in November

- ▶ Sweetwater Pecans \$6.25 per lb.
- ▶ Chocolate-covered Pecans \$8.00 per lb.

For additional information,
please call x35350.

Please bring your driver's
license to pay by personal check.

2000 Inspection



Space Technologies
Commercial Applications

November 1, 2 and 3

<http://inspection.jsc.nasa.gov>