COMMUNIQUÉ #4: COUNTDOWN TO HOUSTON

Maps, weather, shipping instructions and more…….check out the following for a few last minute details concerning your trip to NASA/JSC Houston.

- **Where Are You Headed?** NASA’s Johnson Space Center, Ellington Field. Ellington is a working airfield with a security guard posted at the gated entrance. Shortly after arriving, you will be issued a security badge that will allow you to come and go as you please. You will be briefed on Ellington Rules, Regulations and Safety Procedures during orientation. Your team will be assigned to a work area located in an aircraft hangar – Building 990. Each team will have a table and plenty of room to set up equipment. The Reduced Gravity Office is located adjacent to the hangar in Building 993.

- **Ellington Field Shipping Instructions.** Use the following address ONLY to ship items intended for your team’s use. DO NOT under any circumstance list NASA on the address label, or as part of the address. If you do, your shipment may end up in an unknown zone…… Be sure that your equipment is scheduled to arrive at Ellington Field by the first Monday of your flight group dates.

  **Use ONLY the following address!** Print! Place team name/address on the return address label.

  Reduced Gravity Office
  Ellington Field, Building 993
  Houston, Texas 77034
  Attn: John Yaniec (281-244-9211)

- **Driving to Houston?** You might want to check out the Traveler Discount Guide at <www.exitguide.com> and Traveler Coupon Guide at <www.exitinfo.com>. Both offer coupon discounts for motels in every state along major highways. If you’re looking for NASA area hotels, the location will be Houston-NASA. Be sure to read the “disclaimer” regarding honoring coupons. You might want to call ahead to make sure the coupon will be accepted when you arrive.

- **When to Arrive?** Again, we encourage you to arrive in Houston the Sunday before your flight group is scheduled to check-in. In no event should you arrive later than 11:00 am! Check-in officially begins Monday at noon, but you are welcome to arrive as early as 8:00am. The Reduced Gravity Office will be open and the hangar available for you to begin unpacking/setting up your equipment.
- **Faculty Attendance?** Although your team’s faculty advisor is encouraged and welcome to accompany your team to Houston, it is NOT required that he/she do so.

- **Finding Ellington Field?** From JSC and area hotels, head west toward Hwy 3. Turn right (north) on Hwy 3. Continue until you reach the Main Gate to Ellington Field (opposite PeTe’s Restaurant). Turn right and drive toward the air traffic control tower. Turn left at the tower and follow the road until it dead-ends at a fence. Park in the parking lot on the left, marked "for NASA only." Bldgs 990 and 993 are just inside the security gate. There’s a good map of the Clear Lake area at <http://cass.jsc.nasa.gov/hticons/areamap.jpg>. If you get lost trying to find your way to Ellington Field, call the Reduced Gravity Office for assistance 281-244-9874

- **How’s the Weather?** **HOT!** Check out the Weather Underground site at <www.weatherunderground.com> for the latest on Houston weather. Expect daytime highs to reach in the upper 90’s with high humidity and an occasional thunderstorm. On the ground, the plane will be air-conditioned but not necessarily room-comfortable. In flight, the cabin pressure will be kept at about 5000 feet pressure altitude (12.00 to 12.25 psia) and the cabin temperature in flight will be in the low 70’s to upper 60’s.

- **Hangar.** The hangar is NOT air-conditioned, but fans will be scattered about to circulate the air. Your team is welcome to bring its own fan. There are bathrooms, coke/candy machines inside the hangar. Lemonade and water will be supplied, but feel free to bring your own cooler full of soft drinks or snacks. Alcohol is not permitted on-site.

- **Will You Need Transportation?** – **YES!** Ellington Field is in a fairly remote area – driving is a must! Note: some rental car companies restrict rentals to drivers 25 and older. Be sure to check for any age restrictions when you call. The Clear Lake Visitors Bureau (1-800-844-5253) offered two suggestions: Enterprise Rental: 281-338-0303 and Charlie Thomas Acura : 713-947-777

- **Clothing.** Shorts, t-shirts, bathing suit….just to name a few suggestions. Again, Houston is HOT in the summer, so dress light and casual. On flight day, a standard flight suit will be issued to flight crew prior to take-off. Please bring along a pair of clean, rubber-soled athletic shoes to serve as your “flight boots.” NO NYLON UPPERS OR BLACK SOLES please!

- **Do You Have a Beard or Moustache?** If so, you’ll need to be clean shaven before reporting for Altitude Chamber Training to allow for the proper fit of an oxygen mask.

- **What Else Should You Bring?** Items to help you keep cool: water bottle, mister, hat, sunglasses, flip-flops/sandals – and sunscreen!

- **Interested in Internship Opportunities?** Bring along a copy of your resume to provide to industry representatives with internship opportunities.

- **What About Fun?**
  - **JSC Coop Students** will be hosting all kinds of events for the August flight teams. Check out their website for the latest plans and a calendar of upcoming events: <http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu/tsgc/floatn/99_spring/message.html>.
  - **PeTe’s Night.** PeTe’s is a funky Cajun BBQ restaurant located nearby Ellington - an astronaut favorite! Your team is invited to attend a big Cajun Style BBQ dinner party on the first Tuesday of Week One. Please bring a flag or banner representing your team/school to “fly” above your table.
• **Souvenirs of Your Flight.**
  - The Reduced Gravity Office has t-shirts, pins, patches and hats that you may purchase.
  - Space Center Houston operates a large souvenir shop. You may enter JUST the souvenir shop at no charge by showing your JSC badge to front desk personnel.
  - Internet Souvenir Shops are located at: <www.spacetrader.com> and <nasastore.jsc.nasa.gov/shirt1.html>.
  - Souvenir shops are also located inside NASA cafeterias and along NASA Road One.

• **Interested in Using NASA’s logo?** NASA’s policy regarding the use of its logo follows:
  - you MAY use the logo on shirts or patches designed for your team/crew members.
  - you MAY NOT use the logo in any disparaging way
  - it MAY NOT be used in such a way as to imply that NASA endorses the school, experiment or course of study.
  - you MAY NOT sell any items with the logo on it
  - you MAY NOT give away/distribute items with the NASA logo on it as if you are NASA personnel.

If you have any additional questions in this regard, please contact Dr. Donn Sickorez via email at <donn.g.sickorez1@jsc.nasa.gov>. 