



# NEWS

---

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department  
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506  
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations  
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: [agarten@elcamino.edu](mailto:agarten@elcamino.edu)

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2011

## El Camino College to Present Space Science Day 2011

El Camino College welcomes astronaut Soichi Noguchi to Space Science Day 2011, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 30 at the college's planetarium and science classrooms, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

The daylong event is sponsored by El Camino College and American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and coordinated by the El Camino College Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee. It is **free** and open to serious-minded science students in grades five through 12.

This year's Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Space Science Day marks the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of 1986 when *Space Shuttle Challenger* astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka perished, along with the six other crew members. In association with the 25th anniversary, all members of the Onizuka Family plan to attend the event.

JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) Astronaut Noguchi is a veteran of two space flights, logging nearly 177 days in space. His space flight experience includes a mission on the Space Shuttle Discovery in summer 2005, in which the shuttle docked with the International Space Station where the crew tested and evaluated new procedures for flight safety and shuttle inspection and repair techniques. Noguchi performed three spacewalks, totaling 20 hours.

Noguchi next launched aboard a Soyuz TMA-17 spacecraft in December 2009 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, docking with the International Space Station two days later to join Expedition 22 crew. He became the first Japanese to fly on Soyuz as left-seat flight engineer. For the next 161 days, Noguchi lived and worked aboard the International Space Station as a flight engineer on Expedition 22/23, returning to a safe landing in central Kazakhstan on June 2, 2010.

Reporting to the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in August 1996, Noguchi qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist after two years of training and evaluation. He participated in the basic training course for Russian manned space systems at Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia in 1998. He then continued advanced training at JSC and was also assigned technical duties to support the Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo) development tests.

Astronaut Noguchi received his bachelor of engineering degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1989, and a master of engineering degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1991.

El Camino College's space science event will feature an astronaut presentation as well as classroom workshops and demonstrations led by professors, students, and guests from JPL and other institutions.

Participants will enjoy a variety of hands-on science activities and experiments, including the traditional Egg Drop Competition, where students attempt to build the perfect apparatus that will let an egg drop from a rooftop without breaking when it lands.

To register, contact [SpaceDay@elcamino.edu](mailto:SpaceDay@elcamino.edu); for more information call 310-660-3487.

**MORE**

**El Camino College Alumnus Colonel Michael Fincke  
Among Six Space Veterans to Fly Aboard Shuttle *Endeavour's* Final Mission**

*Endeavour* is slated to launch on a two-week sojourn to the International Space Station on Friday, April 29 from NASA's [Kennedy Space Center](#). The shuttle will deliver spare parts and a \$2 billion astrophysics experiment called the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the orbiting [laboratory](#).

The flight marks the 25th and final mission for *Endeavour*, which is being retired along with sister ships *Discovery* and *Atlantis* so NASA can begin work on new vehicles that can travel beyond the space station's 220-mile orbit. This will be NASA's second-to-last shuttle mission.

The crew includes commander Mark Kelly, pilot Greg H. Johnson, and mission specialists Michael Fincke, Andrew Feustel, Greg Chamitoff, and Italian astronaut Roberto Vittori.

Fincke was the featured speaker at the 2005 El Camino College Space Science Day, an event designed to inform and inspire area youth about the science of space.

Michael Fincke, 44, a U.S. Air Force colonel from Emsworth, Pennsylvania, has an Associate of Science degree from El Camino College, two bachelor's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and master's degrees from Stanford University and the University of Houston, Clear Lake. The married father of three has been part of two long-duration space station missions, including a stint as commander. With his third spaceflight aboard *Endeavour*, Fincke will amass more hours in orbit than any other U.S. astronaut. He is one of the crew's three spacewalkers.

###