



Time is running out— contribute online to CFC and enter weekly drawing

▲ **Congratulations to CFC weekly incentive prize drawing winners:** Congratulations to **Gus Venegas**, winner of two Maximum Access Passes to the KSC Visitor Center; **Doug Newsome**, winner of a \$75 gift certificate to the NASA Exchange, and **Cheryl McPhillips**, winner of two tickets to the Disability Awareness Action Working Group annual luncheon. You can make your contribution on-line at <http://cfc.ksc.nasa.gov> Click on “Inside KSC,” then “CFC Donation Form.” Make your selections; print out your receipt, and get it to your Unit Coordinator/Key Solicitor right away and be entered into this week’s drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to the NASA Exchange, or two Maximum Access Passes to the KSC Visitor Center. Your “Donations DO Make A Difference!”

▲ **Shuttle Safety:** The most powerful Space Shuttle Reusable Solid Rocket Motor ever tested is scheduled for a ground test at a Promontory, Utah, test facility Thursday, Oct. 23. The static – or stationary – test of the engineering motor will generate more than 3.6 million pounds of thrust, pushing the five-segment motor to its boundaries to gauge its capabilities. The test, part of the Shuttle’s on-going safety program, will run for 128 seconds, five seconds longer than the motors would operate during launch. The Space Shuttle launches with a four-segment motor with the maximum thrust of 3.3 million pounds. An engineering test motor simulates many conditions experienced in flight and offers engineers the opportunity to better assess the strength of the current design, to spot potential flaws in the design, to verify new materials and to certify manufacturing processes. The Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Project Office at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and ATK Thiokol Propulsion, an Alliant Techsystems Inc., company in Promontory, Utah, are jointly conducting the test.

Marshall Space Flight Center testing more powerful Shuttle engine

◆ **Mark your calendars!** April 20-22, 2004, are the dates for the Environmental & Energy Awareness Week in celebration of Earth Day! If you would like to participate in next year’s event, you will need to register online at <http://eeaw.ksc.nasa.gov/register.cfm/>. Next planning meeting is scheduled for Nov. 14, at 1 p.m., in the O&C Building/Room 1055. If you have any problems with the registration, please call Barbara Naylor at 867-8452 or e-mail Barbara.A.Naylor@nasa.gov. Deadline for registration is Jan. 31, 2004.

◆ **Did You Know? You can help shape the future: Sign up to be a mentor** – The NASA Center for Distance Learning in cooperation with Christopher Newport University and Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) announce the VINNY™ award. Named in honor of Leonard Da Vinci, the award is designed to help heighten and increase awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). VINNY is a global video competition. Teams made up of one teacher and three students will identify and research a global problem and discover ways that STEM can help solve it. Teams will combine skills in research, writing and creativity. Be a mentor and share the wealth of your experience with young learners. **You can mentor your team online.** The final product to be submitted for judging is a one-minute video explaining the global problem and a possible STEM solution.

- grade levels: elementary grades 3-5, middle grades 6-8, and high grades 9-12
 - two languages: English and Spanish
 - winning one-minute videos will be exhibited on the NASA’s Kids Science News Network™ (NASA’s KSNNTM) web site (<http://ksnn.larc.nasa.gov>)
- Please register to be a mentor by Oct. 31. Register online at <http://vinny.pcs.cnu.edu>.