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Sally Ride Belongings to Soar on Maiden Flight of Orion Spacecraft

December 3, 2014 (<https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/sally-ride-belongings-to-soar-on-maiden-flight-of-orion-spacecraft/>) by Sally Ride Science (<https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/author/sally-ride-science-ucsd/>) · Posted in "News Releases (<https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/category/news-releases/>)" ·

Flight Test of NASA Spacecraft Built to Transport Humans into Deep Space will Carry Dr. Sally Ride's STS-7 Crew Patch as Well as an Excerpt from "The Mystery of Mars"

UPDATE: Orion launched successfully from Cape Canaveral, FL, on Friday, December 5, at 7:05 am EST and, after two orbits, returned successfully, splashing down at 11:29 am EST in the Pacific Ocean about 270 miles off the coast of Baja California!

San Diego, CA, December 4, 2014—On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, NASA announced that the maiden flight of the Orion spacecraft will carry both the STS-7 crew patch Dr. Sally Ride wore when she became the first American woman to fly in space, as well as an excerpt from *The Mystery of Mars* (<https://www.sallyridescience.com/blog/mystery-mars>), a children's book by Dr. Ride and Dr. Tam O'Shaughnessy. The flight test is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014.

"When Sally became the first American woman to soar into space, she captured the nation's imagination as a symbol of the ability of women to break barriers," said Dr. O'Shaughnessy. "But Sally's historic flight represented just one aspect of a remarkable life—she was also a physicist, a science writer, and an inspirational advocate for

science literacy.”



“It is only fitting that NASA’s Orion spacecraft—designed to carry humans to deep space and eventually to Mars—carry her STS-7 crew patch and an excerpt from *The Mystery of Mars*

(<https://www.sallyridescience.com/blog/mystery-mars>) on its maiden flight,” said Dr. O’Shaughnessy, who—in addition to co-authoring *The Mystery of Mars* (<https://www.sallyridescience.com/blog/mystery-mars>) (among other books) with Dr. Ride—is a cofounder and CEO of Sally Ride Science.

NASA’s Orion spacecraft is built to take humans farther than they’ve ever gone before. Orion will serve as the exploration vehicle that will carry the crew to space, provide emergency abort capability, sustain the crew during the space travel, and provide safe re-entry from deep space return velocities.

Orion’s maiden voyage—scheduled to launch from Cape Canaveral, FL—will be a two-orbit, four-hour flight that will test many of the systems most critical to safety. The Orion Flight Test will evaluate launch and high-speed re-entry systems such as avionics, attitude control, parachutes and the heat shield.

Launch and mission control teams are scheduled to report to their consoles in Florida and Houston at about 3:30 am, EST, with a continuous countdown, launch and mission coverage beginning at 4:30 am, EST, and viewable via streaming at www.nasa.gov/nasatv (<http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv>). To learn more visit <http://www.nasa.gov/orion> (<http://www.nasa.gov/orion>).

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🔗 [Sally Ride EarthKAM Mission Scheduled for November 4-7](https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/sally-ride-earthkam-mission-scheduled-for-november-4-7/) (https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/sally-ride-earthkam-mission-scheduled-for-november-4-7/)

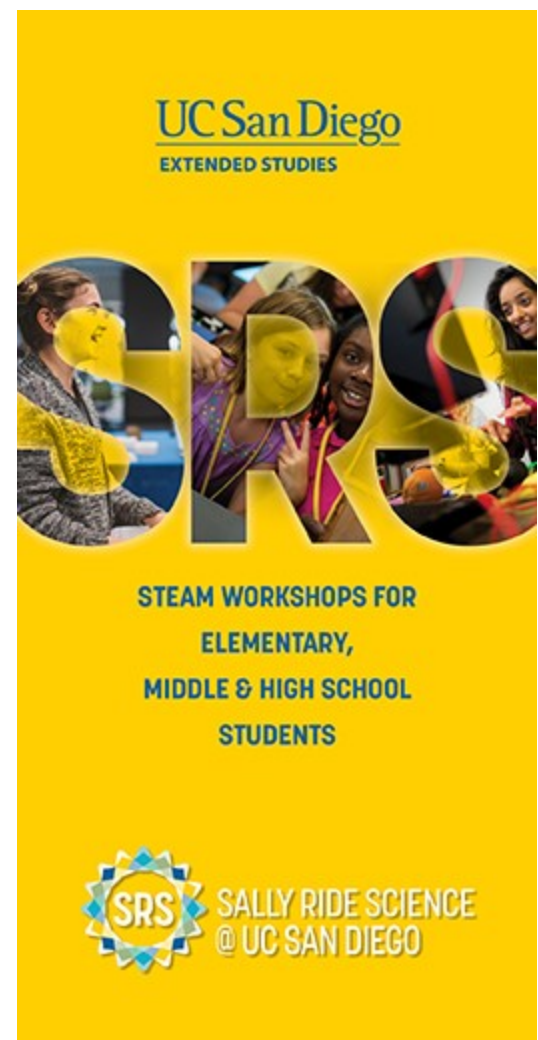
Sally Ride EarthKAM Mission Scheduled for January 27-30 (https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/sally-ride-earthkam-mission-scheduled-for-january-27-30/) 🔗

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Spotlight



UC San Diego
EXTENDED STUDIES

STEAM WORKSHOPS FOR
ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

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The image is a promotional poster for STEAM workshops. It features a bright yellow background. At the top, the UC San Diego logo and 'EXTENDED STUDIES' are displayed. Below this, three circular inset photos show students engaged in hands-on activities, with large, stylized letters 'S', 'R', and 'S' overlaid on the images. The text 'STEAM WORKSHOPS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' is centered below the photos. At the bottom, the 'SRS SALLY RIDE SCIENCE @ UC SAN DIEGO' logo is shown, featuring a gear-like icon with 'SRS' inside.

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Forbes on SALLY documentary: Why Sally Ride's Legacy Still Challenges the Culture Of STEM

(<https://sallyridescience.ucsd.edu/forbes-on-sally-documentary-why-sally-rides-legacy-still-challenges-the-culture-of-stem/>) June 24, 2025

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