

# ADLER)75

AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **CELEBRATE NASA'S HISTORIC RETURN TO FLIGHT JULY 26 WITH A RETURN TO FLIGHT LAUNCH PARTY AT THE ADLER!**

Adler Planetarium Doors Will Open Early at 9 am for the Launch

**NASA's Return to Flight**, the first shuttle mission since the shuttle Columbia accident in 2003, is scheduled for launch **Tuesday, July 26 at 9:39 am CDT**. The historic mission is led by Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, the first woman Space Shuttle pilot, and the first and only woman in history to command a shuttle mission.

Witness the launch on NASA-TV from the **Adler Planetarium** and hear from Adler astronomers about the mission and Shuttle program. Space flight activities will take place throughout the morning, including a Q&A session with Adler astronomers and educators, make-your-own rocket demonstrations and Stomp Rockets. All activities are free to the public with paid general museum admission. Please Note: The Adler will have a special early opening time of 9 am in anticipation of the launch and launch events.

**EVENT: Return to Flight Launch Party – FREE with paid museum admission**

**DATE: Tuesday, July 26 (weather permitting)**

**TIME: 9 am – Adler Planetarium opens early**

**9:39 am – BROADCAST OF SHUTTLE LAUNCH – Lower Level**

**10-11 am – Q&A with Adler astronomers & educators – CyberSpace Gallery**

**11 am-Noon – Make-Your-Own Rocket Demonstrations & Stomp Rockets – South Lawn**

**PLACE: Adler Planetarium - 1300 South Lake Shore Drive – Media enter at South Box Office**

#### **RETURN TO FLIGHT:**

NASA will **Return to Flight** with the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery scheduled for **July 26 at 9:39 am CDT**. The launch of Discovery is the first US space flight since the Space Shuttle Columbia was lost in February 2003. Discovery will be docking with the International Space Station and returning after 12 days in orbit. The mission will bring 15 tons of supplies as well as replacement hardware to the International Space Station.

Return to Flight launches a new era of NASA space exploration. In response to the loss of the Columbia, NASA has implemented more than 40 separate issues to make the Discovery safer than any flight has ever been. Additionally, Return to Flight is the first step in NASA's new Vision for Space Exploration, which includes traveling to the Moon by 2015 and continued exploration of outer space.

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum – America's First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. The Adler is marking its 75th Anniversary by launching a year of celebration and a new vision for its future. A new mission will expand the museum's current focus on astronomy to celebrate human space exploration and America's space heroes. Through this new vision, the Adler will help inspire the next generation of explorers.

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