

Astronaut Kathryn Hire to give Keynote at STEM-tastic Saturday, May 16, 2015

Astronaut Kathryn (Kay) Hire will speak at STEM-tastic Saturday, a hands-on festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math produced by the STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck, on May 16, 2015 at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont, NY. Captain Hire will speak about how youth can follow their own passions to discover and pursue new frontiers in STEM learning, creative innovation and even space exploration.

Having logged over 700 hours in space with more than ten million miles in orbit, Captain Hire has been celebrated as a versatile, multitasking NASA team member since she first started at Johnson Space Center in 1994. She will speak about various aspects of her two space missions for NASA - mission STS-90 with a crew of seven aboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 1998 and mission STS-130 with a crew of six aboard Space Shuttle *Endeavor* in 2010. From participating in biomedical research about the effects of microgravity on the nervous system to helping to build the International Space Station, Captain Hire has worked across STEM disciplines to advance knowledge about space travel, aerospace engineering, biomedicine and robotics.

While she may be most famous for her career as an astronaut, Captain Hire has been a pioneer in many arenas throughout her highly accomplished career. Born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, she later earned her Bachelor of Science from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1981. Her class was one of the first at the Naval Academy to graduate female officers. She then flew RP-3A and RP-3D Orion aircrafts as part of oceanographic research missions to twenty-five different countries. She was also the first female ever in U.S. military history to be assigned to a combat aircrew and she supported both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of the U. S. Naval Central Command.

While space used to be considered the final frontier, Captain Hire has shown that there are always new frontiers to be explored. Captain Hire embraces opportunities to inspire youth to follow their passions to the outer limits of knowledge -- whether that be as close as the Long Island Sound or as far as the outer reaches of our galaxy.



Captain Kathryn Hire/Career Highlights:

- *Piloted worldwide oceanographic research missions to 25 countries*
- *First woman in U.S. military to be assigned to combat aircrew*
- *Supported Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom as member of the U.S. Naval Central Command*
- *Flew on Space Shuttle missions STS-90 and STS-130*
- *Logged over 711 hours in space, circling the globe almost 500 times, covering more than 10 million miles in orbit*

STS-90 Neurolab (April 17 – May 3, 1998). Hire flew as Mission Specialist 2, the flight engineer during the 16-day Spacelab flight. The seven-member crew aboard Space Shuttle Columbia served as both experiment subjects and operators for 26 life science experiments focused on the effects of microgravity on the brain and central nervous system. The STS-90 crew orbited the Earth 256 times, and covered 6.3 million miles.



STS-130 (February 08–21, 2010). Space Shuttle Endeavour launched and landed at night on the thirty-second mission to assemble the International Space Station. The STS-130 crew delivered and outfitted Node 3, also known as Tranquility, and the Cupola, a seven-windowed portal for the space station. As Mission Specialist 1, Hire operated the robotic arms, led the transfer of 4500 pounds of cargo, and helped install water recycling, air cleaning and cooling, and crew exercise equipment in Node 3 and Cupola. During the 2-week mission, Endeavour and crew travelled over 5.7 million miles and completed 217 orbits of the earth.

