

NEWS



**COALITION
..FOR..
SPACE
EXPLORATION**

CONTACT:

Jim Banke
Director, Coalition for Space Exploration
321-868-6288 (office)
321-698-0591 (cell)
jbanke@spacefoundation.org

GALLUP SURVEY: AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR SPACE EXPLORATION STRONG AND GROWING

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla, (July 11, 2005) – Americans continue to show solid support for NASA’s plans to explore, discover and understand our universe by returning the Space Shuttle to flight, completing the International Space Station, and sending robot probes and humans to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

That’s at least one conclusion of a new Gallup survey on public attitudes about our nation’s space program that was coordinated by the Space Foundation and sponsored by the Coalition for Space Exploration.

More than three-fourths (77%) of the American public say they support a new plan for space exploration that would include a stepping-stone approach to return the space shuttle to flight, complete assembly of the space station, build a replacement for the shuttle, go back to the Moon and then on to Mars and beyond.

With funding for such a program expected not to exceed 1 percent of the federal budget, 51% of adults surveyed say they support the program and 26% strongly support it. Of note is that a majority of both Republicans (84%) and Democrats (75%) support such an exploration plan.

The results to this particular question are higher than measured by Gallup in 2004 when the same question was asked. In 2004, 68% of Americans supported or strongly supported the exploration plan.

“We’re very happy that public support for our nation’s space program continues to grow, especially as we return to flight with the Space Shuttle Discovery to begin a new era of space exploration,” said Jeff Carr, chairman of the Coalition’s public affairs team.

When it comes to NASA's budget, almost three-fourths (73%) of American adults surveyed think NASA's budget should remain at its present level (36%) or be increased (37%).

NASA's current share of the total federal budget is .7%, or about \$58 per year for the average citizen. During the height of Project Apollo, NASA's share of the budget was about 4 percent.

Among the Gallup survey's other findings:

- Seven in ten adults (71%) say they are somewhat interested (49%) or very interested (22%) in America's space program.
- Of nine possible answers, most (26%) said the most popular reason America continues to explore space is because it is human nature to do so. Almost one-fourth (24%) said it is to conduct science experiments.
- Eight in ten adults (80%) say they somewhat agree (48%) or strongly agree (32%) that America's space program helps give America the scientific and technological edge it needs to compete with other nations in the international marketplace.
- More than three-fourths (76%) of adults somewhat agree (48%) or strongly agree (28%) that America's space program benefits the nation's economy by inspiring students to pursue careers in technical fields.

The complete Gallup survey report and supporting data will be posted on the Coalition web site at <http://www.spacecoalition.com>.

About the Coalition

The Coalition for Space Exploration is a diverse group of companies, nonprofit organizations, trade associations and unions dedicated to supporting the nation's Vision for Space Exploration, which will ensure America remains a leader in space, science and technology – key factors that create jobs, promote the nation's economy, contribute to our national security, and gratify humanity's need to explore. For more information please visit <http://www.spacecoalition.com/>.

About the Space Foundation

Founded in 1983 and headquartered in Colorado Springs, the Space

Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that vigorously advances civil, commercial, and national security space endeavors and educational excellence. The Space Foundation has offices in Washington, D.C., and Cape Canaveral, Fla. The Space Foundation annually conducts, along with its partnering organizations, Strategic Space 2005, Oct. 4-6, in Omaha, Neb.; Florida Space 2005, Nov. 15-17 at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Fla.; and the Foundation's signature event, the National Space Symposium, April 3-6, 2006, at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo. For more information, visit <http://www.spacefoundation.org>.

Survey Methodology

The survey results are based on a nationally representative sample of 1001 telephone interviews with a general population sample of adult men and women age 18 and over residing in telephone households. The Gallup Organization's full-time interviewing staff conducted the survey during the period of June 9 - July 1, 2005.

The survey was commissioned by The Space Foundation in an effort to better understand the extent of support and public attitudes toward America's space program.

For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be plus or minus three percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias in the findings of opinion polls.