

SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-40/COLUMBIA



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SPACE SHUTTLE (STS-40/COLUMBIA)

STS-40 CREW INSIGNIA — The STS-40 patch makes a contemporary statement focusing on human beings living and working in space. The seven crewmembers are represented against a background of the universe with seven silver stars. The Space Shuttle's flight path forms a double-helix, designed to represent the DNA molecule common to all living creatures. The helix also affirms the continued expansion of human life and American involvement in space emphasizing the medical and biological studies to which this flight is dedicated. Above Columbia, the phrase "Spacelab Life Sciences 1" defines both the Shuttle mission and its payload. Leonardo Da Vinci's Vitruvian man, silhouetted against the blue darkness of the heavens, is in the upper center portion of the patch. Sturdily poised amid the stars, he serves to link scientists on Earth to the scientists in the laboratory of space. A brilliant red and yellow Earth limb (center) links Earth to space as it radiates from a native American symbol for the sun. At the frontier of space, the traditional symbol for the sun vividly links America's past to its future. Beneath the orbiting Shuttle, darkness of night rests peacefully over the United States. Drawn by artist Sean Collins, the STS-40 emblem was designed by the crewmembers. They are astronauts Bryan D. O'Connor, commander; Sidney M. Gutierrez, pilot; James P. Bagian, Tamara E. Jernigan, M. Rhea Seddon, mission specialists; F. Drew Gaffney and Millie Hughes-Fulford, payload specialists.