

SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-61/ENDEAVOUR



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One of the most challenging missions in the history of manned spaceflight will begin with the liftoff of the Space Shuttle Endeavour on Mission STS-61. In a record five spacewalks performed over an 11-day period, two teams of astronauts will complete the first servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). They will install an array of replacement hardware on a 43-foot-long, 14-foot-wide telescope, including corrective optics to compensate for Hubble's flawed primary mirror.

The STS-61 emblem designed by the astronaut crew depicts the astronaut symbol superimposed against the sky with the Earth underneath. The two circles on the patch represent the optical configuration of the Hubble Space Telescope. The Space Shuttle Endeavour is also represented as the fundamental tool that allows us to perform the first servicing of the HST so that its scientific deep space mission may be extended for several years to come. The overall design of the emblem, with lines converging to a high point, is also a symbolic representation of the large scale Earth-based effort — which involves space agencies, industry, and universities — to reach goals of knowledge and perfection.

The seven STS-61 crewmembers were chosen for the experience and skills they can bring to bear on the Hubble mission. They are Mission Commander Richard O. Covey, Pilot Kenneth D. Bowersox, Payload Commander F. Story Musgrave, and Mission Specialists Jeffery A. Hoffman, Thomas D. Akers, Kathryn C. Thornton, and Claude Nicollier of the European Space Agency.