

Ellen Ochoa

Leaders are role models to younger generations.

- Born: May 10, 1958.
- Attended San Diego State University in 1975 and obtained her bachelor's degree in physics (with top academic honors) in 1980.
- Received the NASA Group Achievement Award for Photonics Technology in 1991.
- Received the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Medallion of Excellence Role Model Award in 1993.
- Awarded NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal in 1995.
- Awarded NASA's Exceptional Service Medal in 1997.
- Awarded NASA's Space Flight Medals in '93, '94, '99, and '02.



<http://media-2.web.britannica.com/eb-media/97/92997-004-7B27678B.jpg>

"I tell students that the opportunities I had were a result of having a good educational background. Education is what allows you to stand out."

Ellen Ochoa did more than just "reach for the stars" as a person and an astronaut. After receiving her first degree at San Diego State University, she then went on to graduate school at Stanford University to study electrical engineering and was granted her master's degree in 1981 and her doctorate in 1985, all while performing as an award-winning soloist with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra. NASA recognized her [participative leadership style](#) in 1990, and selected her to become the world's first woman Hispanic astronaut and has logged more than 950 hours in space. During one of her flights in 1999, she was aboard the shuttle Discovery, which completed the first dock on the International Space Station. She has served as Assistant to the space station to the Chief of the Astronaut Office, Lead Spacecraft Operate in Mission Control, and Acting Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office.



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