

# A billionaire, a cancer survivor... Who will be on the next SpaceX mission?

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The crew of Inspiration4: Hayley Arceneaux (top left), Sian Proctor (top right), Chris Sembroski (bottom right) and Jared Isaacman (bottom left), in Alabama in July.

For the first time on Wednesday, SpaceX is due to send into orbit a crew

made up entirely of complete novices, without a professional astronaut on board.

The four passengers are supposed to embody the opening-up of space to everyone, giving the [mission](#) its name: Inspiration4.

A billionaire, Jared Isaacman, is behind the project. It was he who chartered the mission, at his own expense, inviting three anonymous people to join him, via a rather original selection process. Each seat has been assigned to represent a specific value.

## **Jared Isaacman, billionaire pilot**

Isaacman is the mission commander.

The 38-year-old American is the founder and CEO of Shift4 Payments, which offers stores and restaurants a service for processing bank card transactions.

He created it when he was 16, from the basement of the family home.

Passionate about piloting, he holds a record for flying around the world in a light jet and is qualified to fly several military aircraft. In 2012, he founded a company providing training to US Air Force pilots, called Draken International.

A married father of two daughters, he has always been passionate about [space exploration](#).

In 2008, he witnessed the takeoff, aboard a Russian rocket in Kazakhstan, of one of the first private tourists to visit the International Space Station, Richard Garriott. It was after that experience that he contacted SpaceX.

His seat represents "leadership."



US tech billionaire Jared Isaacman in front of the first stage of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, in February 2021 in Hawthorne, California.

### **Hayley Arceneaux, cancer survivor**

Arceneaux was treated for bone cancer as a child at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, for which Jared Isaacman organized a fundraiser. She works there today as a physician assistant.

At 29, she will be the youngest American to be sent into orbit around the Earth, and the first person with a prosthesis to go into space.

She will be the medical manager for the mission. Her seat represents "hope."

## **Sian Proctor, professor and astronaut candidate**

Proctor, 51, teaches geology at a small college in Arizona.

Born in Guam, her father worked at NASA during the Apollo missions. She participated in an experiment in Hawaii simulating life on Mars, and twice applied to NASA to become an astronaut.

In 2009, she was among a few dozen finalists out of more than 3,500 candidates. She will be only the fourth African American woman to go into space.





Hayley Arceneaux at a visit to SpaceX in California: the cancer survivor will be the youngest American in space.

She will be the pilot of the mission, assisting the commander.

She won her seat, which represents "prosperity," by creating an online sales site linked to [space](#), as part of an entrepreneurial competition organized by Isaacman's company.

## **Chris Sembroski, Air Force vet**

A 42-year-old US Air Force veteran who served in Iraq, Sembroski now works in the aeronautics industry, for Lockheed Martin in Washington state.

He was selected after making a donation as part of a fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital.

His seat represents "generosity." His role will be to help in managing the cargo on board, and communications with Earth.

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