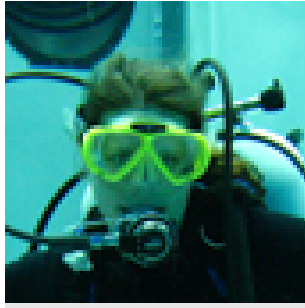


Engineer/Diver

Ever wonder how astronauts prepare for their space missions to fix the Hubble Telescope? The astronauts, that work for NASA, spend many hours practicing on life-sized models of the Hubble Telescope. One model is under the water so the astronauts can practice on the telescope and get used to the feeling of “weightlessness” like they will feel out in space. They may dive into the water and practice a “dive run” on the model telescope twelve times before they actually go into space. Experienced scuba divers help the astronauts learn how to accomplish their goals underwater.

Biography: Karin



What do you do in your job?

Believe it or not, I scuba dive with astronauts for my job! I work with the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission team. That means I get to help write the procedures and train the astronauts for their spacewalks to repair and improve Hubble. Although I spend a lot of time at the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory in Houston, Texas, my home base is in Greenbelt, Maryland at Goddard Space Flight Center. That is where the new instruments and replacement units are assembled and tested before they are shipped to Kennedy Space Center in Florida for launch. IT is very exciting to be working one-on-one with the experts that designed this world-class telescope and see the great pictures of our universe through its optics.