



SOUND BITES

NASA  
PEOPLE &  
CAREERS

INSIGHTS TO INSPIRE

1

00:00:02,240 --> 00:00:06,080

Being part of something that's bigger than  
myself is really the biggest part of the job.

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00:00:06,080 --> 00:00:09,760

You know I may be a part of the  
team that may someday discover life

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00:00:09,760 --> 00:00:12,320

throughout the solar system,  
and that and that's huge for me.

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00:00:15,760 --> 00:00:20,400

My name is Carl Sandifer the second, and I'm the  
deputy chief for the space science project office

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00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:25,840

at the NASA Glenn Research Center and I've been  
here for a little over 20 years. The mission is

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00:00:25,840 --> 00:00:30,800

is just amazing right, I wake up every morning  
inspired to get to work, but the people are just

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00:00:30,800 --> 00:00:36,240

fantastic to work with. So for fun I like to  
play basketball, it's always been my passion.

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00:00:36,240 --> 00:00:40,160

So I played - was that 6th grade through  
the 12th grade. I think I still got it.

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00:00:41,040 --> 00:00:46,160

From an educational standpoint, I would also tell  
myself to always do your best and challenge myself,

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00:00:46,720 --> 00:00:51,920

but to not put so much pressure on myself, because  
I put a lot of pressure on myself to get that A.

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00:00:51,920 --> 00:00:57,680

I love anything that's competitive. I don't know why it's innate in my system, but you know whether

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00:00:57,680 --> 00:01:02,800

it's sports or or any games, card games, board games. Growing up I always loved mathematics,

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00:01:03,360 --> 00:01:09,600

it was my favorite subject. I never dreamed of working for NASA but when I was in college, you

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00:01:09,600 --> 00:01:14,800

know I learned about the fact that there was a co-op program at NASA Glenn and I applied and

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00:01:14,800 --> 00:01:21,360

started my first position as an aerospace engineer and really focused on orbital mechanics. And that

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00:01:21,360 --> 00:01:27,760

position led to me working for the radioisotope power systems program about 10 years or so ago. I

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00:01:27,760 --> 00:01:33,680

transitioned into NASA leadership. You know what - I would like to go to every national park and hike

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00:01:33,680 --> 00:01:40,400

with my family. I've got a 22-year-old, a 13-year-old and a 10-year-old. We'll see if I can you know

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00:01:40,400 --> 00:01:45,760

get the 22-year-old to join. So we need to do a better job of reaching the classroom environment

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00:01:45,760 --> 00:01:50,720

and sharing all the opportunities that are available. And also of course, you know encouraging

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00:01:50,720 --> 00:01:55,600

our children to create a plan that aligns with  
their interests. So important to seek a mentor in

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00:01:55,600 --> 00:02:01,680

your field of interest to get an idea of what  
it's like and have them work with you to outline

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00:02:01,680 --> 00:02:06,320

you know what it takes to get to that position.  
And I'd say go for it you know don't be afraid,

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00:02:06,320 --> 00:02:11,680

you know nothing is unachievable. We had kind of  
a class comedian and one that one day playing

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00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:16,480

basketball, you know this guy I didn't know kind of  
shows up and he just says you know you look like

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00:02:16,480 --> 00:02:20,800

a Ralph. And so everybody just kind of looked at  
him and said you know what we're gonna call you

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00:02:20,800 --> 00:02:28,240

Ralph from now on and so I don't know how - you know  
the name stuck and so my childhood friends call me