

SOUND BITES



NASA
PEOPLE &
CAREERS

1

00:00:01,680 --> 00:00:08,080

Something you love to do. I love catching up with family and friends. I love connecting them so if they have like

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00:00:08,080 --> 00:00:14,160

interests uh really putting them together so that they can be successful in whatever those endeavors are.

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00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:23,280

My name is Ra-Deon Sledge. I am currently the chief of staff of NASA Glenn research center. As

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chief of staff, I assist the center director and her directors - the associate and deputy directors

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00:00:29,520 --> 00:00:36,000

with the general operations and administrative support of the center. What you wanted to be when you grew up. I grew up wanting to be

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:41,040

a singer and I did that which was great. I was in a girl group from 15

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00:00:41,040 --> 00:00:49,840

to 19 years old and actually that's what led me to NASA. I went to a job fair and I was able to

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00:00:49,840 --> 00:00:55,760

meet someone that had actually heard me sing and they were able to educate me on the offerings of

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00:00:55,760 --> 00:01:01,760

NASA. I always thought of engineers and scientists, never, you know, from a computer discipline or even

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00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:07,760

a business acumen, so learning that that did exist in terms of careers at NASA piqued my interest.

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00:01:07,760 --> 00:01:12,640

I think what excites me the most is that
it changes week to week, it's always

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00:01:12,640 --> 00:01:18,640

something different from a GRC and or NASA
perspective I think I'm motivated most by

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00:01:18,640 --> 00:01:24,560

how what we do inspires and impacts so many lives.
Our technology not only pushes the boundaries

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00:01:24,560 --> 00:01:30,720

of innovation in space but it also improves our
lives here on earth. Most daring thing you've ever done.
I remember horseback riding

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00:01:30,720 --> 00:01:36,080

in Hawaii and I was on this course it was very
temperamental they told me. His name was Tom Tom

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00:01:36,080 --> 00:01:41,360

and if you kicked him too hard on the side
he would just go off, like you know he was in the

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00:01:41,360 --> 00:01:47,360

wild wild west or something. And so I would just
let him do it, and we got to a very steep hill

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00:01:47,360 --> 00:01:52,480

in the countryside and we were riding up it
sideways. I almost fell off but it was super fun.

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00:01:52,480 --> 00:01:59,200

How to inspire more African-Americans to go after STEM careers. We offer the educational programs but we
to bring them to the programs or expose them to

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00:01:59,200 --> 00:02:04,480

them so that they can get those tools. Just like
the rudiment of the African diaspora, it takes

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00:02:04,480 --> 00:02:10,480
a village, so we have to work within our inner
circles in our contacts to make sure that they're

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00:02:10,480 --> 00:02:15,440
educated and aware of those opportunities. And
then I'd also say that we have to teach them to

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00:02:15,440 --> 00:02:25,634
never take no for an answer. What would you tell your 10-year-old self. I would probably tell
myself that you c

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00:02:25,667 --> 00:02:30,160
What song you sing at Karaoke. So since
I'm a singer, I love to joke with people at

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00:02:30,160 --> 00:02:35,760
karaoke night and I'll pick a hard song, like a
Whitney Houston song or something like that, and

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00:02:35,760 --> 00:02:40,560
I'll sing it completely terrible until like the
big moment in the song at the end and then I'll