



1
00:00:35,830 --> 00:00:33,990
hello my name is jeff williams speaking

2
00:00:38,549 --> 00:00:35,840
to you from the orbital outpost we call

3
00:00:40,630 --> 00:00:38,559
the international space station

4
00:00:42,869 --> 00:00:40,640
space explorers are drawn into the

5
00:00:45,270 --> 00:00:42,879
heavens but it seems once we get here

6
00:00:47,430 --> 00:00:45,280
our attention is drawn back to earth

7
00:00:49,590 --> 00:00:47,440
this unique vantage point brings an

8
00:00:51,270 --> 00:00:49,600
endless panorama of natural beauty and

9
00:00:53,110 --> 00:00:51,280
awesome grandeur that is found in the

10
00:00:55,110 --> 00:00:53,120
world below

11
00:00:57,270 --> 00:00:55,120
our national park system is often called

12
00:00:58,869 --> 00:00:57,280
america's best idea

13
00:01:00,869 --> 00:00:58,879

and from low earth orbit it's not

14

00:01:02,950 --> 00:01:00,879

difficult to understand why

15

00:01:05,109 --> 00:01:02,960

many of the large-scale parks are easily

16

00:01:07,429 --> 00:01:05,119

seen from the space station their rugged

17

00:01:09,990 --> 00:01:07,439

beauty and unspoiled terrains reveal a

18

00:01:11,590 --> 00:01:10,000

geographical landscape as diverse as

19

00:01:13,910 --> 00:01:11,600

america itself

20

00:01:15,830 --> 00:01:13,920

and the smaller parks although often

21

00:01:17,830 --> 00:01:15,840

unseen from space are every bit as

22

00:01:20,550 --> 00:01:17,840

significant and crucial to the overall

23

00:01:22,950 --> 00:01:20,560

landscape and time scale of american

24

00:01:24,630 --> 00:01:22,960

history and culture

25

00:01:26,469 --> 00:01:24,640

my affection for the national parks

26

00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:26,479

began when i was a child

27

00:01:31,190 --> 00:01:29,040

my father a high school history teacher

28

00:01:33,350 --> 00:01:31,200

was also a seasonal park ranger for the

29

00:01:35,510 --> 00:01:33,360

national park service and he would move

30

00:01:37,590 --> 00:01:35,520

our family from wisconsin to wyoming in

31

00:01:39,510 --> 00:01:37,600

the summers where he served at devils

32

00:01:40,950 --> 00:01:39,520

tower national monument

33

00:01:43,109 --> 00:01:40,960

while living at devil's tower and

34

00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:43,119

several times in subsequent years we

35

00:01:47,910 --> 00:01:45,040

traveled to some of america's other

36

00:01:51,670 --> 00:01:47,920

majestic parks including the stark

37

00:01:54,630 --> 00:01:51,680

badlands of south dakota

38

00:01:55,749 --> 00:01:54,640

montana's spectacular glacier national

39

00:01:59,030 --> 00:01:55,759

park

40

00:02:00,870 --> 00:01:59,040

and the magnificent yellowstone

41

00:02:02,789 --> 00:02:00,880

it was in these parks where my father

42

00:02:05,590 --> 00:02:02,799

encouraged us to explore the world

43

00:02:08,309 --> 00:02:05,600

around us learn from it and gain an

44

00:02:10,389 --> 00:02:08,319

appreciation for all its wonders the

45

00:02:12,630 --> 00:02:10,399

national parks became a classroom a

46

00:02:14,550 --> 00:02:12,640

generation later i followed in my

47

00:02:16,390 --> 00:02:14,560

father's footsteps and introduced my own

48

00:02:18,630 --> 00:02:16,400

family to the wonders found within the

49

00:02:20,869 --> 00:02:18,640

parks visiting not only those

50

00:02:23,750 --> 00:02:20,879

experienced in my childhood but many

51
00:02:25,990 --> 00:02:23,760
others including the grand canyon

52
00:02:27,270 --> 00:02:26,000
sequoia in king's canyon

53
00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:27,280
yosemite

54
00:02:31,670 --> 00:02:29,440
and other historical parks in places

55
00:02:33,270 --> 00:02:31,680
like boston massachusetts and washington

56
00:02:35,589 --> 00:02:33,280
d.c

57
00:02:38,229 --> 00:02:35,599
the national park system reveals some of

58
00:02:40,309 --> 00:02:38,239
the very best that america has to offer

59
00:02:42,229 --> 00:02:40,319
and reflects the democracy under which

60
00:02:44,470 --> 00:02:42,239
it was developed

61
00:02:45,990 --> 00:02:44,480
in many ways it is a centerpiece of

62
00:02:48,869 --> 00:02:46,000
americana

63
00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:48,879

from its inception over 100 years ago

64

00:02:53,670 --> 00:02:51,280

the national park service has grown from

65

00:02:55,830 --> 00:02:53,680

one park poorly funded and threatened by

66

00:02:58,869 --> 00:02:55,840

other interests to a vast system of

67

00:03:01,190 --> 00:02:58,879

protected national parks monuments

68

00:03:04,149 --> 00:03:01,200

seashores wildlife preserves

69

00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:04,159

recreational areas and historical sites

70

00:03:09,190 --> 00:03:06,800

spanning over 84 million acres

71

00:03:11,350 --> 00:03:09,200

the first park yellowstone was in fact

72

00:03:13,830 --> 00:03:11,360

the very first of its kind in the world

73

00:03:15,589 --> 00:03:13,840

a national park established exclusively

74

00:03:17,509 --> 00:03:15,599

for the benefit and enjoyment of the

75

00:03:19,509 --> 00:03:17,519

people

76
00:03:21,589 --> 00:03:19,519
from low earth orbit i've had the unique

77
00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:21,599
opportunity to observe and extensively

78
00:03:26,070 --> 00:03:23,280
photograph a number of the visually

79
00:03:28,630 --> 00:03:26,080
prominent parks denali national park

80
00:03:31,350 --> 00:03:28,640
which cradles its namesake the high one

81
00:03:32,470 --> 00:03:31,360
also known as mount mckinley at over 20

82
00:03:34,309 --> 00:03:32,480
000 feet

83
00:03:35,990 --> 00:03:34,319
a mountain so high that it creates its

84
00:03:38,149 --> 00:03:36,000
own weather system

85
00:03:40,710 --> 00:03:38,159
overwhelming in scope and beauty the

86
00:03:43,270 --> 00:03:40,720
grand canyon exposes a majestic gash

87
00:03:46,550 --> 00:03:43,280
into the earth up to 18 miles wide a

88
00:03:47,670 --> 00:03:46,560

mile deep and an incredible 270 miles

89

00:03:49,750 --> 00:03:47,680

long

90

00:03:51,190 --> 00:03:49,760

the grand teton national park provides

91

00:03:53,190 --> 00:03:51,200

us with one of the most striking

92

00:03:56,470 --> 00:03:53,200

mountain ranges in the world rising

93

00:03:58,869 --> 00:03:56,480

above the valley of jackson hole

94

00:04:00,789 --> 00:03:58,879

the national mall in washington dc and

95

00:04:03,030 --> 00:04:00,799

its own spectrum of unique sites and

96

00:04:04,550 --> 00:04:03,040

memorials gives preservation to our

97

00:04:05,750 --> 00:04:04,560

culture and the history of our great

98

00:04:07,670 --> 00:04:05,760

nation

99

00:04:09,670 --> 00:04:07,680

the enormous wrangle saint elias

100

00:04:12,309 --> 00:04:09,680

national park which includes nine of the

101
00:04:14,630 --> 00:04:12,319
16 highest peaks in the united states

102
00:04:17,189 --> 00:04:14,640
where glaciers and volcanoes lie side by

103
00:04:19,110 --> 00:04:17,199
side across a 13 million acre landscape

104
00:04:20,789 --> 00:04:19,120
and rivers of ice flow into the gulf of

105
00:04:23,270 --> 00:04:20,799
alaska

106
00:04:25,189 --> 00:04:23,280
hawaii volcanoes national park where

107
00:04:27,670 --> 00:04:25,199
active volcanoes produce rivers of

108
00:04:29,749 --> 00:04:27,680
molten lava and ecosystems range from

109
00:04:31,189 --> 00:04:29,759
fertile tropical forest to barren

110
00:04:33,510 --> 00:04:31,199
deserts

111
00:04:35,990 --> 00:04:33,520
death valley national park one of the

112
00:04:37,909 --> 00:04:36,000
lowest driest and hottest places on

113
00:04:39,990 --> 00:04:37,919

earth with the surprising beauty and

114

00:04:42,550 --> 00:04:40,000

grandeur of its own

115

00:04:44,550 --> 00:04:42,560

crater lake national park featuring a

116

00:04:47,350 --> 00:04:44,560

distinctive lake formed in a collapsed

117

00:04:49,110 --> 00:04:47,360

volcano at approximately 2000 feet deep

118

00:04:51,510 --> 00:04:49,120

crater lake is the deepest lake in the

119

00:04:54,469 --> 00:04:51,520

united states with arguably some of the

120

00:04:57,030 --> 00:04:54,479

most pristine water found on earth

121

00:04:59,670 --> 00:04:57,040

as a young boy i traveled with my father

122

00:05:02,230 --> 00:04:59,680

to isle royal national park containing

123

00:05:03,830 --> 00:05:02,240

the largest island in lake superior my

124

00:05:06,550 --> 00:05:03,840

memories of that trip include the

125

00:05:08,390 --> 00:05:06,560

presence of moose wolves and large lake

126

00:05:11,029 --> 00:05:08,400

trout off the pier

127

00:05:13,189 --> 00:05:11,039

the apostle island national lakeshore a

128

00:05:15,430 --> 00:05:13,199

collection of 21 islands located in

129

00:05:17,670 --> 00:05:15,440

northern wisconsin on the shores of lake

130

00:05:20,230 --> 00:05:17,680

superior known for their historic

131

00:05:23,189 --> 00:05:20,240

lighthouses and offshore shipwrecks as

132

00:05:26,150 --> 00:05:23,199

well as ancient sandstone ice caves and

133

00:05:28,550 --> 00:05:26,160

abundant wildlife

134

00:05:31,670 --> 00:05:28,560

the national park system is truly one of

135

00:05:33,749 --> 00:05:31,680

america's greatest ideas these unique

136

00:05:36,070 --> 00:05:33,759

and diverse parks monuments and

137

00:05:38,710 --> 00:05:36,080

historical and cultural sites have made

138

00:05:40,950 --> 00:05:38,720

a tremendous impact on my life as well

139

00:05:43,110 --> 00:05:40,960

as the lives of my family and millions

140

00:05:45,189 --> 00:05:43,120

of people across the globe their

141

00:05:47,350 --> 00:05:45,199

contributions to america cannot be

142

00:05:50,550 --> 00:05:47,360

overstated they provide a source of

143

00:05:53,590 --> 00:05:50,560

recreation relaxation education and

144

00:05:55,670 --> 00:05:53,600

inspiration to countless of individuals

145

00:05:58,230 --> 00:05:55,680

they also preserve and protect america's

146

00:05:59,670 --> 00:05:58,240

most beautiful natural landscapes and

147

00:06:01,189 --> 00:05:59,680

cultural history

148

00:06:02,790 --> 00:06:01,199

as an astronaut one of my favorite

149

00:06:05,110 --> 00:06:02,800

efforts supported by the national park

150

00:06:07,189 --> 00:06:05,120

service is the night skies initiative

151
00:06:09,350 --> 00:06:07,199
which focuses on preserving areas within

152
00:06:11,110 --> 00:06:09,360
the national parks that are devoid of

153
00:06:12,870 --> 00:06:11,120
artificial light so that people may

154
00:06:15,670 --> 00:06:12,880
appreciate and learn about the

155
00:06:18,070 --> 00:06:15,680
miraculous cosmos surrounding us as john

156
00:06:19,990 --> 00:06:18,080
murray once said the clearest way into

157
00:06:22,710 --> 00:06:20,000
the universe is through a forest

158
00:06:25,029 --> 00:06:22,720
wilderness on the centennial anniversary

159
00:06:26,790 --> 00:06:25,039
of our national park service i would

160
00:06:29,350 --> 00:06:26,800
like to take this opportunity to

161
00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:29,360
congratulate those who serve in it as

162
00:06:33,990 --> 00:06:31,440
well as those who support it and enjoy

163
00:06:37,029 --> 00:06:34,000

its benefits and express my sincere

164

00:06:39,430 --> 00:06:37,039

appreciation for educating and inspiring

165

00:06:41,749 --> 00:06:39,440

this and every generation

166

00:06:44,390 --> 00:06:41,759

your stewardship is preserving a

167

00:06:46,390 --> 00:06:44,400

critical and integral part of america

168

00:06:48,469 --> 00:06:46,400

and american culture

169

00:06:50,309 --> 00:06:48,479

and i encourage all present and future

170

00:06:52,870 --> 00:06:50,319

explorers to take this incredible

171

00:06:55,270 --> 00:06:52,880

opportunity that is available to you and

172

00:06:57,589 --> 00:06:55,280

your families to find your park explore

173

00:06:59,110 --> 00:06:57,599

your park and most importantly to