

NASA ASTRONAUT

JOSH CASSADA



1
00:00:00,240 --> 00:00:03,178
We explore space because that is the

2
00:00:03,179 --> 00:00:05,338
human condition. We are always trying to

3
00:00:05,339 --> 00:00:06,479
learn more.

4
00:00:06,480 --> 00:00:08,339
My name is Josh Cassada and I'm the

5
00:00:08,340 --> 00:00:10,739
pilot for NASA's SpaceX Crew-5 Mission

6
00:00:10,740 --> 00:00:12,839
to the International Space Station.

7
00:00:12,840 --> 00:00:14,699
I was born in California but I was

8
00:00:14,700 --> 00:00:16,979
raised in White Bear Lake Minnesota. In

9
00:00:16,980 --> 00:00:19,379
high school I really really enjoyed and

10
00:00:19,380 --> 00:00:20,938
did well at math and that's actually

11
00:00:20,939 --> 00:00:22,499
what drove me to wanting to study

12
00:00:22,500 --> 00:00:24,778
physics in in college was to understand

13
00:00:24,779 --> 00:00:26,639

the bigger picture and really how the

14

00:00:26,640 --> 00:00:29,399

universe works and operates. I got both

15

00:00:29,400 --> 00:00:32,098

my masters and PhD and studied with an

16

00:00:32,099 --> 00:00:34,499

incredible team at Fermilab. Doing high

17

00:00:34,500 --> 00:00:37,019

energy particle physics at Fermilab we

18

00:00:37,020 --> 00:00:38,999

collide protons and anti-protons at

19

00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:40,319

nearly the speed of light. The

20

00:00:40,320 --> 00:00:42,299

interesting part of particle physics is

21

00:00:42,300 --> 00:00:43,619

this is how we understand what's

22

00:00:43,620 --> 00:00:44,999

happening at the fundamental building

23

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:46,679

blocks of nature.

24

00:00:46,680 --> 00:00:48,898

At the conclusion of my graduate studies

25

00:00:48,899 --> 00:00:51,119

at Fermilab I had an opportunity to join

26

00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:53,218

the U.S Navy and fly for the Navy and I

27

00:00:53,219 --> 00:00:54,898

absolutely took it.

28

00:00:54,899 --> 00:00:57,179

The Navy has been really good to me but

29

00:00:57,180 --> 00:00:59,339

it was it was a shift in culture for

30

00:00:59,340 --> 00:01:02,159

sure. I have flown over 4 000 hours in

31

00:01:02,160 --> 00:01:04,679

over 45 aircraft and what that allows

32

00:01:04,680 --> 00:01:06,179

you to do is just be ready for

33

00:01:06,180 --> 00:01:08,219

whatever's coming next and know that

34

00:01:08,220 --> 00:01:09,478

you're going to have to think on your

35

00:01:09,479 --> 00:01:11,699

feet. There is a link between aviation

36

00:01:11,700 --> 00:01:14,279

and physics and for me that link is just

37

00:01:14,280 --> 00:01:16,199

being ready for the unexpected. You have

38

00:01:16,200 --> 00:01:18,359

to be prepared for everything that might

39

00:01:18,360 --> 00:01:19,679

be thrown at you. You need to be able to

40

00:01:19,680 --> 00:01:21,539

look at problems in very different ways

41

00:01:21,540 --> 00:01:24,959

and so I thought man being an astronaut

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00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:27,499

kind of merges all of those things.

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00:01:27,500 --> 00:01:29,758

NASA says it's accepting applications

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00:01:29,759 --> 00:01:32,459

for new astronauts of the roughly 3 500

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00:01:32,460 --> 00:01:35,158

applicants NASA is expecting only about

46

00:01:35,159 --> 00:01:38,819

15 will be selected for training. And so

47

00:01:38,820 --> 00:01:42,059

I had applied for this position at Nasa

48

00:01:42,060 --> 00:01:44,039

I'll be honest I had no intention of

49

00:01:44,040 --> 00:01:45,478

getting it. You know you don't win the

50

00:01:45,479 --> 00:01:47,879

lottery if you don't buy a ticket so I

51
00:01:47,880 --> 00:01:50,819
I gave it a shot and when I got that

52
00:01:50,820 --> 00:01:52,978
call my family and my friends we

53
00:01:52,979 --> 00:01:54,719
couldn't be more excited to be a part of

54
00:01:54,720 --> 00:01:57,839
this amazing amazing experience. And I'll

55
00:01:57,840 --> 00:02:00,059
tell you I am just so honored and

56
00:02:00,060 --> 00:02:02,879
humbled to be a part of this NASA team

57
00:02:02,880 --> 00:02:05,459
and to be able to contribute to the next

58
00:02:05,460 --> 00:02:09,140
generation of exploration and science.

59
00:02:10,700 --> 00:02:13,139
I couldn't be more lucky than to fly

60
00:02:13,140 --> 00:02:15,899
with crew 5. For me going to space is an

61
00:02:15,900 --> 00:02:17,818
opportunity to do my job. We've been

62
00:02:17,819 --> 00:02:20,279
training and preparing for a long time

63
00:02:20,280 --> 00:02:22,859

and to be honest that's my priority is

64

00:02:22,860 --> 00:02:24,419

to get up there and do what we've been

65

00:02:24,420 --> 00:02:26,878

trained to do. And the science is an

66

00:02:26,879 --> 00:02:28,439

incredibly exciting part of that for me