



1  
00:00:00,330 --> 00:00:01,330  
Music

2  
00:00:22,860 --> 00:00:23,446  
When I was down in Florida as an astronaut candidate, our class actually had the chance to see

3  
00:00:28,540 --> 00:00:28,623  
Discovery up close. That was the first vehicle I saw up close and it was being stacked and readied

4  
00:00:34,990 --> 00:00:41,656  
to roll out to the pad and so a couple of us even stayed longer and we got to see Discovery head out

5  
00:00:43,030 --> 00:00:49,763  
of the VAB and start rolling towards, to the pad and this was a really big deal because it was Return

6  
00:00:50,980 --> 00:00:51,980  
to Flight.

7  
00:00:55,640 --> 00:01:02,506  
Everything was really exciting because it's, I mean, you've imagined this vehicle, all the vehicles for

8  
00:01:03,300 --> 00:01:05,060  
a long time and when you see something up close you realize, what's tile, what's not tile, what's a

9  
00:01:08,140 --> 00:01:11,340  
blanket. It's a just a really beautiful vehicle.

10  
00:01:16,080 --> 00:01:17,043  
It's a really clean vehicle and people always ask, you know, after the use of these vehicles, do they

11  
00:01:21,850 --> 00:01:23,820  
start to show their wear and tear? Yeah, on the outside they do because we don't replace everything

12  
00:01:26,480 --> 00:01:33,146  
because we don't have to. Some things can remain on, so the blankets and stuff aren't pristine white

13  
00:01:33,750 --> 00:01:34,360

because they can be reused. That's the whole point of having a reusable vehicle. But inside, she is

14

00:01:39,740 --> 00:01:39,843

really clean and you can tell that crews have a lot of pride in her and that of course the folks that fix

15

00:01:46,570 --> 00:01:53,103

her up when she's down at the OPF, they also have a lot of pride in her. But it's a great vehicle.

16

00:01:59,390 --> 00:02:05,656

Later when I went back, well, actually I found out just a few months before I flew, my mom was

17

00:02:06,280 --> 00:02:07,250

cleaning my old bedroom back at home in Colorado and she said, "Hey, you know that shuttle

18

00:02:11,310 --> 00:02:12,293

model that you made when you went to Space Camp?" I was like, yeah, it's hanging in my room.

19

00:02:16,460 --> 00:02:18,830

It's kind of funny mom, you probably need to take down the shrine or something, and she said,

20

00:02:20,290 --> 00:02:27,356

"Well, I looked and it's Discovery." And I was just like, that's really cool that I made this model and it

21

00:02:28,780 --> 00:02:29,016

ends up, because of delays that we had due to cold weather we had in Florida, we end up flying 20

22

00:02:35,010 --> 00:02:41,410

years after I went to Space Camp in Huntsville and it was on the vehicle I made the model of. So