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Replying to @NASA @NASA_Astronauts and 3 others
If you have the opportunity to go to the moon, what would you be most interested in seeing or doing? #AskNASA @NASA
9:22 AM - 27 Sep 2019
Write a comment...
Peter Hall Which aspect of the research you're doing up there excites you most and why?
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21
Mary Robinette Kowal
@MaryRobinette
Follow
Replying to @NASA @Space_Station
#asknasa Does the air feel or smell different moving from the Soyuz into the ISS?
3:25 PM - 25 Sep 2019

1
00:00:00,640 --> 00:00:02,640
Station, this is Headquarters. How do you hear me?

2
00:00:03,280 --> 00:00:06,540
Hello Headquarters. The International Space Station has you loud and clear.

3
00:00:07,480 --> 00:00:11,189
Awesome. Well, this is such a pleasure. My name is Cheryl Warner in the Office of Communications.

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00:00:12,099 --> 00:00:15,179
However, today I'm calling you on behalf of the Internet.

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00:00:15,750 --> 00:00:21,629
We asked our followers on Twitter using the hashtag #AskNASA and our friends on Facebook

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00:00:21,880 --> 00:00:25,350
What do they want to ask you? So, they did not disappoint.

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00:00:25,949 --> 00:00:31,799
They asked thousands of questions, and I know we don't have time for all of them. But since you're ready, I'm g

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00:00:32,559 --> 00:00:39,929
Our first question comes from Chris on Facebook. He asks, what age did you realize you were interested in spa

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00:00:41,020 --> 00:00:47,489
Chris, that's a great question. I know for me, I actually don't even remember a time when I didn't want to be an

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00:00:47,489 --> 00:00:49,079
I think like a lot of little kids,

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00:00:49,079 --> 00:00:53,159
It sounds like a great thing that you want to do. And in my case, I just never grew out of it.

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00:00:53,170 --> 00:01:00,690
So from the time I was young, probably even before kindergarten, I was dreaming of space and being a space

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00:01:06,970 --> 00:01:09,389

And the answer is actually pretty similar for me.

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00:01:09,390 --> 00:01:13,949
My mom tells me that I was five years old when I started saying I wanted to be an astronaut and

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00:01:14,110 --> 00:01:19,470
my first memory of it was in the first grade. And our teacher asked us to draw a picture of what we wanted to

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00:01:19,470 --> 00:01:24,569
be when we grew up and I drew a picture of an astronaut in a spacesuit on the surface of the Moon, next to the

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00:01:24,570 --> 00:01:29,820
flag. Kind of that iconic image that people have and just like Christina, I never stopped saying it my whole life e

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00:01:30,460 --> 00:01:32,849
Well, our next question comes from Mary on Twitter.

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00:01:32,850 --> 00:01:37,140
She wants to know and maybe Jessica you can answer this, since you just got on station.

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00:01:37,509 --> 00:01:44,219
Does the air feel or smell different when you're moving from the Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space St

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00:01:44,979 --> 00:01:49,258
You know, there's this smell that we call the smell of space, which is really just

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00:01:49,810 --> 00:01:54,089
more of the smell of the metals in their interaction with the space environment.

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00:01:54,090 --> 00:01:59,040
So all the metals of the spacecraft and the space station and especially those involved with the docking compa

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00:01:59,079 --> 00:02:04,829
So I think it was actually a pretty similar smell, with the Soyuz coming on station. And then just the other day

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00:02:05,049 --> 00:02:10,678
Christina captured the HTV cargo vehicle, so it was again that same similar kind of smell that we had.

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00:02:11,100 --> 00:02:13,200
I think though also I was so

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00:02:13,200 --> 00:02:20,320
Overwhelmed with everything that was going on, from that whole flight and my arrival into weightlessness. And

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00:02:20,569 --> 00:02:24,609
Usually my nose is very sensitive and I'm always thinking about smells. But in that first moment

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00:02:24,610 --> 00:02:26,709
I actually wasn't thinking about it that much.

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00:02:27,069 --> 00:02:33,279
Just getting — get docking and then coming on the space station for the first time was an absolutely incredible

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00:02:34,240 --> 00:02:41,820
Thank you. So Gary from Facebook asks, does the Moon look farther away from the International Space Statio

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00:02:43,480 --> 00:02:50,860
We are not that much closer to the Moon than you all are on the surface of the Earth, when you think about the

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00:02:50,989 --> 00:02:57,579
distances. But the difference is that we aren't looking through the Earth's atmosphere when we look at the Moo

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00:02:57,739 --> 00:03:03,999
So the size looks about the same, but the clarity is really enhanced here and because of that,

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:05,530
Sometimes it feels like it's closer.

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00:03:05,530 --> 00:03:10,390
It definitely makes me think about the Artemis mission and looking forward to going back to the Moon in 2024.

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00:03:11,150 --> 00:03:17,590
Manish from Twitter asks a great question, to follow up about the Artemis program. If you had the opportunity t

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00:03:17,660 --> 00:03:20,769

What would you be most interested in seeing or doing?

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00:03:21,799 --> 00:03:24,039
I would love the opportunity to go back to the Moon.

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00:03:24,040 --> 00:03:30,340
I think that's something that everybody in our office has been thinking about, as we start planning and moving t

41
00:03:30,340 --> 00:03:33,220
I think for me just going out there

42
00:03:33,590 --> 00:03:37,149
exploring and adding to the scientific data set that we already have.

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00:03:37,280 --> 00:03:41,259
There are so many questions that are still left unanswered from the Apollo missions.

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00:03:41,260 --> 00:03:43,989
So it would be amazing to be able to contribute to those.

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00:03:44,480 --> 00:03:50,319
Especially looking at the planetary geology and especially for me looking at the

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00:03:50,810 --> 00:03:55,600
astrobiology type experiments. And that kind of looking for — any

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00:03:56,660 --> 00:04:04,630
Any evidence looking — any of those types of experiments. I think looking at the planetary geology, especially.

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00:04:06,290 --> 00:04:13,600
Awesome. So Peter from Facebook asks, which aspect of the research that you're doing aboard station today

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00:04:14,750 --> 00:04:17,709
I think the research onboard space station that excites me

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00:04:17,709 --> 00:04:21,908
the most is twofold. One is the research that we're doing that's going to inform our future

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00:04:22,490 --> 00:04:29,830
exploration deeper into space, going back to the moon and eventually on to Mars. We're studying the long dura

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00:04:30,020 --> 00:04:35,379
on the life-support systems that are required to support our life working and living in space.

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00:04:35,660 --> 00:04:40,600
And secondly the type of research is that that goes back to benefit life on Earth. And one of the most

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00:04:40,790 --> 00:04:45,760
exciting ones of that type for me, is that of pharmaceuticals in microgravity.

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00:04:45,760 --> 00:04:52,989
We have the opportunity to grow crystals that may eventually be used to make better medicines for some very

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00:04:53,480 --> 00:05:00,099
important diseases on Earth. And all that is enabled by the microgravity research lab that we have around us in

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00:05:00,950 --> 00:05:02,540
Sounds exciting.

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00:05:02,540 --> 00:05:09,129
So Jean from Facebook asks, what's your advice for young girls interested in space in science and NASA?

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00:05:09,890 --> 00:05:15,729
I think the advice that I often give most young people is really to make sure that you identify what it is

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00:05:15,730 --> 00:05:20,349
you're passionate about. That sounds kind of trite we say it all the time, but it really is true.

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00:05:20,450 --> 00:05:26,020
I really don't think that you can really excel at something and more importantly be happy doing it

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00:05:26,020 --> 00:05:29,199
if it's not something that you're really passionate about. Of course,

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00:05:29,200 --> 00:05:32,379

It also takes a lot of hard work and there's some luck involved, too.

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00:05:32,380 --> 00:05:34,960
I know for both Christina, and I we could have never

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00:05:35,210 --> 00:05:39,309
imagined that our childhood dream would come true and the two of us would be here together,

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00:05:39,620 --> 00:05:41,859
doing this event and talking to everybody else.

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00:05:42,070 --> 00:05:47,260
So I think it is proof that dreams really can come true if you can identify that passion and then, of course,

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00:05:47,420 --> 00:05:50,349
really work hard toward it and have things line up correctly.

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00:05:51,320 --> 00:05:54,760
I think we only have time for one more question. So let's make it a fun one.

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00:05:55,340 --> 00:05:59,410
Clayton from Facebook asks, how often do you take a break to stop and admire the view?

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00:06:01,220 --> 00:06:08,920
Well, we do have very long workdays, 12-hour days from start to finish. Those are days that consist mostly of c

72
00:06:08,920 --> 00:06:10,920
and upgrades on the space station systems.

73
00:06:11,210 --> 00:06:14,109
So when we do catch a break in between those activities,

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00:06:14,110 --> 00:06:20,350
we may go to what I call the bay window of the space station, or what we call the cupola module.

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00:06:20,600 --> 00:06:25,600
Basically, it's a series of seven windows that look down on Earth and they are amazing after work.

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00:06:25,600 --> 00:06:27,760
We also can enjoy the cupola and on

77
00:06:28,340 --> 00:06:34,450
particularly exciting passes like when we're going over a site on the Earth that everyone's interested in, either b

78
00:06:34,790 --> 00:06:37,119
or it's a place that we all know and love from home,

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00:06:37,190 --> 00:06:42,339
you can often find all six or in this case nine astronauts packed into the cupola to take a peek.