



**#AskNASA**

**WHO IS GOING WITH US?**

1  
00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:09,059  
Hi, I'm Alvin Drew. I'm an astronaut. This is ask NASA and I'm here to answer your

2  
00:00:09,059 --> 00:00:11,100  
questions.

3  
00:00:20,180 --> 00:00:22,590  
So who is going to the Moon with NASA? It's going to be a lot of

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00:00:22,590 --> 00:00:25,769  
folks. It's going to be our own industry helping us get there. It's all going to

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00:00:25,769 --> 00:00:28,529  
be our international partners, many of whom have been with us on the

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00:00:28,529 --> 00:00:32,739  
International Space Station, plus a few others,

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:35,640  
who are building the Gateway. Well,

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00:00:35,640 --> 00:00:39,059  
those who are not familiar, this is the Gateway. Lots of folks are going to build

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00:00:39,059 --> 00:00:41,460  
this, different companies. We're going to build these things - different countries

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00:00:41,460 --> 00:00:44,430  
are going to contribute. This part here with the legs on it is a part that

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00:00:44,430 --> 00:00:48,390

takes off and lands from the surface of the Moon. And then finally this is a

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00:00:48,390 --> 00:00:51,870  
transition stage, to get us across that 50 thousand mile gap between the Gateway

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00:00:51,870 --> 00:00:55,559  
and the Moon. The Gateway is a great place for us to stay on the Moon. And so

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00:00:55,559 --> 00:00:58,230  
if you have a vehicle out there that can dock to it, no matter what it is, no

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00:00:58,230 --> 00:01:01,500  
matter what country you're from, you can plug into it. You can get power,

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00:01:01,500 --> 00:01:04,949  
you can get data and then you become part of the Gateway. The Gateway will

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00:01:04,949 --> 00:01:07,950  
work a lot like the International Space Station. We'll assemble it using robotic

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00:01:07,950 --> 00:01:11,400  
arms and spacewalks as well, along with docking and berthing, just like we do

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00:01:11,400 --> 00:01:15,210  
today.  
Why does NASA need partners? Well, it's

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00:01:15,210 --> 00:01:18,119  
because we're doing great things out there. We're not going to go anywhere

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00:01:18,119 --> 00:01:21,420

without our partners with us. It's going to take a crew to get us to Mars. Another

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00:01:21,420 --> 00:01:25,409

example of our international partnership is the International Space Station. 19

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00:01:25,409 --> 00:01:29,040

nations in total is what it took to make that space station what it is today.

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00:01:29,040 --> 00:01:34,979

So what's the next question here. Is this a modern space race? Well, yes and no. Yes,

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00:01:34,979 --> 00:01:38,159

we're up against the clock, but no, we're not racing against each other. This is

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00:01:38,159 --> 00:01:41,759

more of a partnership, a relay race that involves our domestic industry as well

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00:01:41,759 --> 00:01:44,869

as our international partners.

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00:01:47,850 --> 00:01:52,450

So how did going into space influence you? It's a tiny, tiny little island in

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00:01:52,450 --> 00:01:55,570

the middle of a great big black sea. There's no little yellow boundary line

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00:01:55,570 --> 00:01:59,440

separating our countries from one another. We really are all together here

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00:01:59,440 --> 00:02:03,460

on this one island, in the middle of

nowhere/

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00:02:04,080 --> 00:02:07,660

That was the best throw we have ever had. (Laughter)

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00:02:12,400 --> 00:02:13,720

So what does it feel like in space?

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00:02:13,720 --> 00:02:17,470

You're weightless. You're strapped in your seat and you can float. Imagine

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00:02:17,470 --> 00:02:22,360

being in a pool without any water - you're not wet. What's the best way to become an

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00:02:22,360 --> 00:02:25,540

astronaut? I can tell you the one thing every astronaut had in common is that

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00:02:25,540 --> 00:02:29,110

they were pursuing something that was not being an astronaut, that really had

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00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:31,540

their passion. They really liked what they were doing and that's why they

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00:02:31,540 --> 00:02:35,140

excelled at it and that's why they stood out enough to become an astronaut. Where

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00:02:35,140 --> 00:02:38,830

can you find the best views on the International Space Station? From the

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00:02:38,830 --> 00:02:41,860

cupola. Far and away the best investment we've ever made. You can just see the

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00:02:41,860 --> 00:02:44,739

universe from there, short of going out on a spacewalk.

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00:02:44,739 --> 00:02:45,880

I heard you were in a

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00:02:45,880 --> 00:02:49,540

Willie Nelson video. Do you still have your costume? Of course I still have my

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00:02:49,540 --> 00:02:52,930

costume. What else you think I'm wearing when I'm playing air guitar? One of the

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00:02:52,930 --> 00:02:55,570

cool things like being an astronaut is you can sometimes inadvertently wind up

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00:02:55,570 --> 00:02:58,780

on the set of a video shoot. This one involved Willie Nelson and his whiskey

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00:02:58,780 --> 00:03:00,540

river range.

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00:03:00,540 --> 00:03:04,239

Well Alex, I can only guess.

We're going to go to Mars in the near

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00:03:04,239 --> 00:03:07,420

future. We're going to go to the moon in preparation for going to Mars and by the

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00:03:07,420 --> 00:03:10,630

time we get there, you'll be old enough to come back and tell me what life was

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00:03:10,630 --> 00:03:13,200

like on Mars.

53

00:03:15,270 --> 00:03:18,780

To the top, where there's the best view.

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00:03:18,780 --> 00:03:21,250

Do you have a question for NASA? Send