

# WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT?

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#BEANASTRONAUT



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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,870  
I think there were a lot of reasons I  
wanted to be an astronaut. As long as I

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00:00:03,870 --> 00:00:08,700  
can remember, I've wanted to be an  
explorer. I wanted to explore. I want to

3  
00:00:08,700 --> 00:00:13,950  
explore. I have always had a sense of  
adventure. I loved being outside, I loved

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00:00:13,950 --> 00:00:17,340  
discovering new things. I wanted to be an  
astronaut because I've always been very

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00:00:17,340 --> 00:00:20,609  
curious about the world around me and  
because I've always wanted to explore

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00:00:20,609 --> 00:00:24,300  
that world. This is the logical extension  
of all that. You know, when I learned

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00:00:24,300 --> 00:00:30,060  
about the explorers back in elementary  
school and junior high, I thought, "Wow,

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00:00:30,060 --> 00:00:34,730  
that's so exciting to go step out and  
venture into new land." And there's no

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00:00:34,730 --> 00:00:38,610  
greater place for me to start exploring  
and going further than as an astronaut.

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00:00:38,610 --> 00:00:43,200  
Since I was a little kid, being an  
astronaut is all I ever wanted to do.

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00:00:43,200 --> 00:00:48,420  
Growing up in Houston, NASA was a part of  
my life early on. Ever since I can

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00:00:48,420 --> 00:00:53,719  
remember, I've loved aerospace. As a young  
kid, around six years old, I got to watch

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00:00:53,719 --> 00:00:59,160  
STS-1 blast off and that is really what  
sparked my passion for spaceflight. I

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00:00:59,160 --> 00:01:03,559  
didn't always want to be an astronaut. I  
don't think I really realized it until

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00:01:03,559 --> 00:01:08,400  
partway through college or even after  
college. I think it's a child I wanted to

16  
00:01:08,400 --> 00:01:11,729  
be an astronaut because that seemed to  
be a popular thing to say, that you wanted to be

17  
00:01:11,729 --> 00:01:15,810  
an astronaut. And as I got older, I think  
it evolved into more the idea of getting

18  
00:01:15,810 --> 00:01:18,540  
to be part of something where you're  
pushing the bounds of human knowledge

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00:01:18,540 --> 00:01:21,960  
and exploring the unknown. I wanted to be  
an astronaut

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00:01:21,960 --> 00:01:26,430  
to combine two passions of mine. One of  
which was technical problem solving,

21  
00:01:26,430 --> 00:01:31,710  
which I did as an engineer, and the other  
was operations – I used to do search and

22  
00:01:31,710 --> 00:01:35,759  
rescue. And so, I always had these two  
loves and I thought that being an

23  
00:01:35,759 --> 00:01:41,610  
astronaut was a way to both train for  
and work on operations, but also solve

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00:01:41,610 --> 00:01:46,110  
technical problems. I've always liked  
science, math, technology. Those subjects

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00:01:46,110 --> 00:01:51,000  
have just naturally what I've gravitated  
towards. I wanted to be an astronaut

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:55,150  
because I was excited about working on a  
team, doing amazing things that

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00:01:55,150 --> 00:02:01,210  
before. The camaraderie and the team  
aspect of it, you know, NASA is one of the

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00:02:01,210 --> 00:02:05,290  
greatest examples of what you can do  
with a team of people working together.

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00:02:05,290 --> 00:02:09,009  
And so I think all those things appealed  
to me. I have always been passionate

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00:02:09,009 --> 00:02:14,020  
about space. There's something about  
space that has always interested me and

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00:02:14,020 --> 00:02:21,010  
pulled me and inspired me. And the chance  
to work for NASA and for the

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00:02:21,010 --> 00:02:25,210  
International Space Station and wherever  
our space program was going, to me just

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00:02:25,210 --> 00:02:30,310  
seemed like a chance to be part of the  
ultimate, field work endeavor. I wanted to be

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00:02:30,310 --> 00:02:32,890  
an astronaut because I wanted to  
continue to be a part of something

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00:02:32,890 --> 00:02:37,959  
bigger than myself and contributing to  
human space exploration is a challenge

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00:02:37,959 --> 00:02:43,540  
that I just couldn't pass up. I thought  
that space exploration is one of the

37  
00:02:43,540 --> 00:02:48,790  
most inspiring platforms to be able to  
leave a positive contribution. But, most