

HOW DID
YOU GET
INTERESTED
IN STEM?

#BEANASTRONAUT



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00:00:00,030 --> 00:00:03,510
Math and science have been the things
that interest me since a young age. I

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00:00:03,510 --> 00:00:08,040
always liked math, I always liked
sciences. I just have these early

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00:00:08,040 --> 00:00:12,090
memories of being interested in science
and eventually engineering, once I

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00:00:12,090 --> 00:00:15,509
realized that engineering was just
problem-solving with the tools you

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00:00:15,509 --> 00:00:19,260
learned in science. I think I got
interested in STEM as a child because I

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00:00:19,260 --> 00:00:22,500
was just curious about everything that I
saw. I wanted to know how computers

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00:00:22,500 --> 00:00:26,369
worked, I wanted to know how the machines
worked, I wanted to know how cars worked.

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00:00:26,369 --> 00:00:32,520
For me, it's kind of simple. I really
liked to build things and I really liked

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00:00:32,520 --> 00:00:37,170
going fast. And to do those things, I
needed to understand science and

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00:00:37,170 --> 00:00:40,590
technology. Because to build the things
and to go as fast as I wanted to go, I

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00:00:40,590 --> 00:00:45,539
needed to understand physics. My
grandfather was a sixth-grade science

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00:00:45,539 --> 00:00:49,559
teacher. And even we were on vacation
visiting my grandparents, I would ask to

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00:00:49,559 --> 00:00:53,550
go to school with him and sit in his
class all day just to see the different

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00:00:53,550 --> 00:00:56,870
things that we got to do. And so that is
really what gave me the love for science

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00:00:56,870 --> 00:01:04,320
and math as I was a young kid. My
mom took me to every science museum you

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00:01:04,320 --> 00:01:09,659
could imagine. She was so involved. Part
of that, I guess, as a child was my dad

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00:01:09,659 --> 00:01:13,619
was a geologist. And so, I kind of just
grew up hiking the mountains, looking at

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00:01:13,619 --> 00:01:17,729
rocks and talking about science. I first
got interested in science

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00:01:17,729 --> 00:01:21,630
really as a kid just playing in the
backyard. I was always interested in math

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00:01:21,630 --> 00:01:26,369
and science, and my mom really encouraged
that. My dad's an engineer and that was

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00:01:26,369 --> 00:01:31,229
inspiring to me. And then as I got older,
I started taking some courses, these

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00:01:31,229 --> 00:01:36,150
after-school programs for both math and
science at, you know, at the local

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00:01:36,150 --> 00:01:42,360
college. I showed interest in math and
science when I was young and I was able

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00:01:42,360 --> 00:01:46,380
to continue that interest in STEM
through school and internships

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00:01:46,380 --> 00:01:49,920
throughout my life. And then in high
school I think it was cemented because I

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00:01:49,920 --> 00:01:54,250
had some really awesome role models and
mentors

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00:01:54,250 --> 00:01:57,880
when I was kind of developing what I
wanted to do. That made me want to

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00:01:57,880 --> 00:02:02,380
continue on that track in college. I
think my initial interest in STEM was

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00:02:02,380 --> 00:02:05,500
sparked in high school when I got
interested in amateur rocketry and

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00:02:05,500 --> 00:02:09,940
started building my own large, amateur
rockets in my parent's garage, and

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00:02:09,940 --> 00:02:14,290
dealing with all of the math, engineering,
and problem-solving associated with that.

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00:02:14,290 --> 00:02:17,860
When I was in high school I got really
interested in airplanes and flying –

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00:02:17,860 --> 00:02:21,880
basically everything that had to do with
airplanes. As an undergrad, I decided to

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00:02:21,880 --> 00:02:27,310
study aerospace engineering and that led
me to a career as an engineer and also

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00:02:27,310 --> 00:02:31,900
just working in scientific research.
That piqued a curiosity in me, that

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00:02:31,900 --> 00:02:35,860
piqued a desire to explore the world
around me that led me into the STEM

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00:02:35,860 --> 00:02:39,550
field. When I finished high school and I
was trying to consider what to study, it

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00:02:39,550 --> 00:02:43,390
was a very logical thing for me to
decide on mechanical engineering because

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00:02:43,390 --> 00:02:47,080
that was a field in which I could study
the machines around me that made our