

## Out of This World

Ever since I was a little boy, I have always been told to reach for the stars. At first it was a cute metaphor, but now as I grow older, I have decided to take this message to heart. For this very reason, in the eyes of my seventeen-year-old self, it is my ultimate goal to become an astronaut.

The purpose of my life is to become an astronaut. Everything that I do, everything that I become, the choices I make must be in pursuit of this goal. I always need to be pushing myself, striving for the greatest that I can achieve. It is for this reason, in the eyes of my seventeen-year-old self, my highest aspiration is to become an astronaut.

The very idea of an astronaut is one that encompasses who I am and who I'd like to be. An astronaut is someone who is held in high esteem by the entire world. They are chosen not just on their academic or physical characteristics but also on their moral character. An astronaut needs to be able to lead others. They need to direct their flight crew, talk to Mission Control, make split second decisions. There is a kind of leadership that requires discipline, ambition, an ability to work with others, and an understanding of when to step up and take charge or step down to let others take charge. Many of these skills I have already started to develop through my years in Scouting and robotics. I have learned to work with others in stressful situations. I understand the amount of discipline leadership can require. I hope to continue these skills throughout my life, even after I become an astronaut.

Astronauts need to present themselves to the world in a way that can inspire others. They also need to be able to withstand the scrutiny of the media. This means living a clean life, as well as educating others about space and challenging them to surpass any and all mental and physical limitations. One of my favorite things about the space industry is how it brings people together. America, Europe, Russia, Japan, India, China, all working together. The people in the space industry have recognized that which matters most in this world- we are all human. If only more people had the ability to recognize humanity in the world, the world would be a much kinder and safer place.

Something else I absolutely love about the space industry is how it encompasses so many different scientific fields and requires a strong academic background with many years of training. Engineers, nutritionists, physicists, psychologists, teachers, and many many more are all needed. And it is quite often that you see an invention being made for space that later impacts a large group of people, if not the world. This is how I hope to change the world. I want to help people reach their potential by demonstrating what this looks like in my own life. I want to show others a better path. When you think about it, humans are so insignificant in the world that it is almost pathetic when we get caught up in such petty squabbles as beliefs or ideas.

Astronauts challenge themselves on a daily basis. To first become an astronaut one must work hard in life to become as morally, academically, and physically fit as they can be. As an astronaut they continue to challenge themselves, to always be the very best versions of themselves. They do not lose their ambition throughout their lives. They know that failure does not truly mean failure, it means an opportunity to improve.

I plan on becoming an astronaut not for the title but because of what it represents. The purpose of my life is to make a difference. I do not want to go through life and not mean something to someone. I want to continually challenge myself, to learn about the world and universe, and to be a leader. The purpose of my life truly is to become an astronaut. Because ultimately, being an astronaut is not just a job, it is a way of life.