

Brian, Age 11

6th Grader from Hamburg, New York

“To Boldly Go...”

“To boldly go where no one has gone before” is the phrase that everyone associates with Captain James T. Kirk from the original Star Trek series. I like the phrase a lot because it means you need to possess courage to explore what you are not accustomed to experiencing. I believe that if I were to win this opportunity to experience Zero-G, I would be going where very few children in my age group ever get to go. I would feel that it was my duty to share what I learned and how it felt with others to encourage them to try it also. For me, this would be life-changing as I would experience what microgravity feels like, and as a future astrophysicist I think this is very important to my understanding of what I hope to work on for my career.

I would appreciate this experience and use the knowledge I gain from it to inspire me in my future educational pursuits. I know it would make me a more complete astrophysicist if I could understand the basic Newtonian principle of gravity from a first-person perspective. I titled my essay “To Boldly Go...” because I truly feel that you have to be bold to slip Earth’s gravitational pull. I know Sir Isaac Newton would be the first in line to experience a Zero-G ride if he could have.

It is my intention to work in aerospace when I am a professional. I figure astrophysics would be the best way for me to use my love of science and math to enable people to venture into space. I always considered astronauts to be the bravest people because they have to trust the aerospace engineers and each other in order to stay safe and get experiments completed in space. I feel that having the opportunity to experience what they feel in outer space, on our very own planet, would be a once in a lifetime chance to understand their work.

I never even imagined that I could even possibly have the opportunity to experience microgravity. I have done research on various aspects of gravity for different science experiments, and I always daydream what it might feel like to not feel Earth’s gravitation pull. I am the tallest of all my friends and sometimes I wish I was a little smaller. I think being in a Zero-G environment would give me that sense of not being bound or judged for my body size. I could just float like everyone else.

A good percentage of my classes are focused on STEAM. I take pre-calculus currently through a program that allows me to be challenged in math. Every time there is something space or physics related, my homeschool co-op classmates ask me what I think of it. I like being the friend that people ask science questions of. I love it when people want to hear about space. I know everyone would be interested in my experience with Zero-G, but I would not want them to be jealous or sad that they did not experience it, so I would make sure to tell them how they could also experience a Zero-G opportunity themselves. I did not know until this contest with Space Kids Global that there were so many different places that would allow you to feel like an astronaut. I am so excited to try something new like this because it will help my understanding of what I love so much: space. I really think this is a good thing because more people will want to travel to space, and space tourism will generate revenue for space research and discovery.

My brother and I both want to be in aerospace. We play outside with some of our friends and we play games like Mission Control and Landing on Mars. Basically, we pretend we are the first people to land on another planet and we have to be courageous like old explorers were and just learn as much as we can about the new environment. My brother and I like to think we are like the new version of the Wright Brothers. Feeling zero gravity would be something the Wright Brothers would have been eager to experience, and I want to emulate them and their courage.

I think if I get to experience Zero-G it will be the best thing ever I could experience because it will help me understand the real feeling of everything I imagine when I am playing. I will be able to tell my brother and my friends about it and they will learn from me. If everyone has more knowledge about space, more people will want to go to space. More space tourism equals more funding and support of NASA and missions to space. Every time we launch a new telescope or satellite or spacecraft, we are learning new data about our galaxy. If more people realized how fun zero gravity can be, more people would want to travel to space. I would like to someday help people accomplish this. My sincere interest is to make the world a better place for everyone, and I believe that space exploration is a huge part of making the world more peaceful. I want to experience what the people I will be helping to transport into space will experience.

In conclusion, I want to show my appreciation for you considering my essay for your contest. I really enjoyed looking at your company's web site and learning about how fun Zero-G can be. It would be awesome and amazing to win and be able to share the experience with all my friends. Thank you for your time reading my essay. I hope that it showed you my sincere interest in experiencing this lack of gravity and how it would inspire me and inform me in my future educational and professional pursuits.