

Milan, Age 11

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Why I (Don't) Want to Go to Space

Going to space is not a dream of mine. This may seem unusual for an essay about going to space, but there is a very good reason for this. Have you ever felt like you were meant to do a specific thing? That's how I feel. Instead of traveling to space as an astronaut, for as long as I can remember I have wanted to be a space scientist to help others in their galactic journey.

Most of my life, I have been fascinated with the universe. It all started when I was two years old and I recall watching a kid's YouTube video about Venus. After that I told my parents that "Venus is stinky" because I had just learned the atmosphere is mostly made of sulfuric clouds. After that, I wanted to learn as much about the universe as I could. I like to read books that focus on the universe and I enjoy learning about different topics from the icy Kuiper Belt to my favorite planet Saturn to even how black holes are formed. I have always known that I wanted to help others get to space and to support astronauts in their quest to learn about this spectacular universe. Therefore, my goal in life is to be a space scientist.

But astronauts don't get to space on their own. It takes everyone working together to accomplish that goal. Each member of the team contributes in a different way, and I feel that mine would be to develop the astronaut's plan to assist them by creating tools for their expeditions. Just like Helen Keller said: "alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much" which means that everybody plays an important role in what the team is trying to achieve.

My desire to help others comes from my parents as well as being a Girl Scout. We are taught to do things to help the community and as a result, I like helping and doing what I can to

support others. It is exciting to me to assist others. This is why I would rather develop solutions for astronauts than actually go to space.

As mentioned above, my love for space started with planets, which led me to want to be a space scientist. Even though scientists today already know more about space than the ocean, there is still a lot to discover and I want to be a part of that. My ultimate goal as a space scientist would be to discover life on another planet. It excites me to know that they have already found water on the planet Kepler-22b, which means it is potentially habitable. I would love to be able to contribute to finding other habitable planets. It would also excite me to discover other interesting findings. For example, in addition to Saturn, Jupiter is another one of my favorite planets and it is famous for its red dot. But this red dot, which is really made up of violent 250 miles per hour storms, will eventually disappear in about 20 years. This was something that space scientists discovered by studying the planet, and I think that being able to discover something like that, or to contribute to a similar finding, would be so exciting.

While humans are expanding our quest to go to space, I also want to make sure that we are being sustainable in order to keep our planet healthy, as well as the other planets we may discover. It is important to help maintain and preserve our galaxy just like we are doing on Earth. I really believe in helping to conserve the planet we have. I try to do my part by turning off lights when I leave a room, using reusable straws so we don't pollute our oceans, and by not littering. If we were to ever colonize other planets, we need to utilize these same methods to help ensure that we do not damage other planets. When I grow up, I would like to try to find a way to safely allow people to travel to other planets in a sustainable way.

Earning a trip on Zero-Gravity would help me further my dreams that I mentioned above. Instead of actually going to space, it would help me experience what an astronaut would go

through in a zero gravity situation. I could then use that experience in the future to help understand what the effects of zero-gravity would do to the human body and utilize that experience to help them. For example, I know that a human body can grow up to 2 inches while in a zero gravity environment. This would help me design a suit that was not fully snug but would allow for a little growth. Little details like that are important and can make the difference in an astronaut's comfort level. It can also be the difference between him fulfilling his mission rather than cutting it short just because his suit didn't fit him properly.

Being in a zero gravity environment is something that has always interested me. But since I do not want to go to space, the opportunity to do that would be difficult. Therefore, earning a spot on the Zero Gravity plane would allow me to experience this. The first thing I would do on the plane is a backflip followed by a somersault!

In conclusion, space is very important to me as it contains many unique things that we don't find here on Earth. Experiencing Zero-G would mean the world to me. As I am often dreaming about space and looking up at the night sky searching for a glimpse of the International Space Station, I would then be able to know what they are going through in a weightless environment.
