

CAREER BRIEF

(Grades 9-12)

SPACE SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR



WHAT IS A SPACE SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR?

A Space Science Communicator works with space science organizations to create educational tools like articles, videos and public presentations to teach students about space.

WHAT DO SPACE SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS DO?

- Space Science Communicators help students understand Astronomy, Planetary Science and Space Communications by speaking to them directly at their level.
- They also share past and current space missions with students so they are aware of space programs powered by NASA and SpaceX.
- Space Science Communicators think of fun ways to reach students by showing how space science lives within pop culture (Star Wars, Star Trek, Mandalorian).

Fun Fact: Did you know that The Apollo astronauts' footprints on the moon will probably stay there for at least 100 million years.

EDUCATION

- A bachelor's degree in communications as well as a focus in a space related field that interests you like Astronomy and Planetary Science.

TRAINING

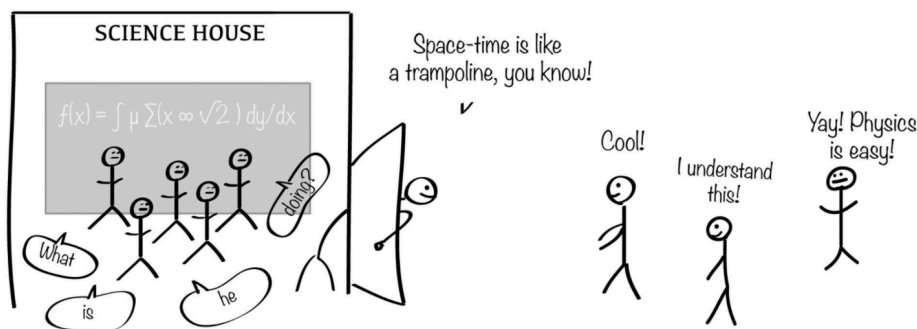
- Public speaking and communications internships.
- Participation in various public speaking events (school assemblies, youth organization meetings like Girl/Boy Scouts, community events like career fairs).

SKILLS

- Strong speaking and writing skills.
- Strong communication skills.
- Communicate and work well with children.

EXPLORING THIS CAREER

- UC Davis: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/majors/blog/alumni-share-how-to-break-into-science-communications/>
- The Science Basement: <https://www.thesciencebasement.org/blogging-science/life-as-a-full-time-science-communicator/>



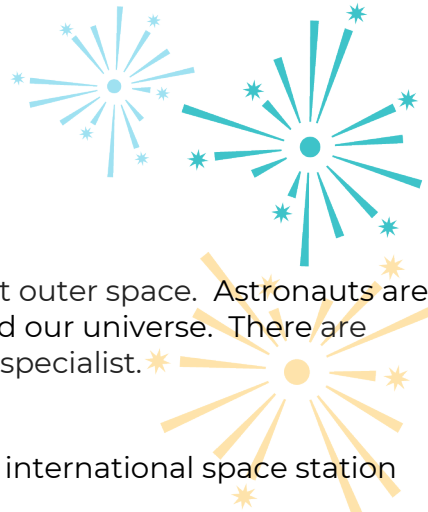
I know the sky is not the limit, because there are footprints on the moon - and I made some of them.

- Buzz Aldrin

CAREER BRIEF

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ASTRONAUT



WHAT IS AN ASTRONAUT?

An astronaut is a space adventurer who travels, works and learns about outer space. Astronauts are scientists who explore and navigate space so we can better understand our universe. There are different jobs astronauts are assigned to like being a pilot or a mission specialist.

WHAT DO ASTRONAUTS DO?

- Pilot Astronauts are the commanders of their space shuttle and international space station while in space.
- Pilot Astronauts are responsible for the overall mission and success of the flight. Pilot Astronauts are also responsible for leading their crew and ensuring their safety.
- Mission Specialist Astronauts work with pilots to complete experiments, manage and maintain spacecraft equipment and launch satellites.

Fun Fact: Did you know that astronauts are called different names in different countries? In Russia astronauts are called "Cosmonauts", in China they're called "Taikonauts" and in France they go by "Spationautes".

EDUCATION

- A bachelor's degree in engineering, biological science, physical science or mathematics is required.
- Mission Specialists are required to have 3 or more additional years in graduate school such as a master's degree or a doctoral degree.

TRAINING

- NASA requires 20 months of training, including time spent in a low-gravity aircraft known as the Vomit Comet!
- Astronauts also log flight hours in a jet aircraft.
- Astronauts need to be able to pass a strict physical examination.

SKILLS

- Must get used to weightlessness.
- Leadership, communication & multi-tasking skills.
- Experience in piloting a jet aircraft.
- Experience with science experiments.
- Have good vision and be between 5' 2" and 6' 2" tall to fit in a space capsule.

EXPLORING THIS CAREER

- NASA JPL: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/news/2015/11/4/so-you-want-to-be-an-astronaut/>
- NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/stem-ed-resources/how-to-be-an-astronaut.html>
- Career Explorer: <https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/astronaut/resources/>