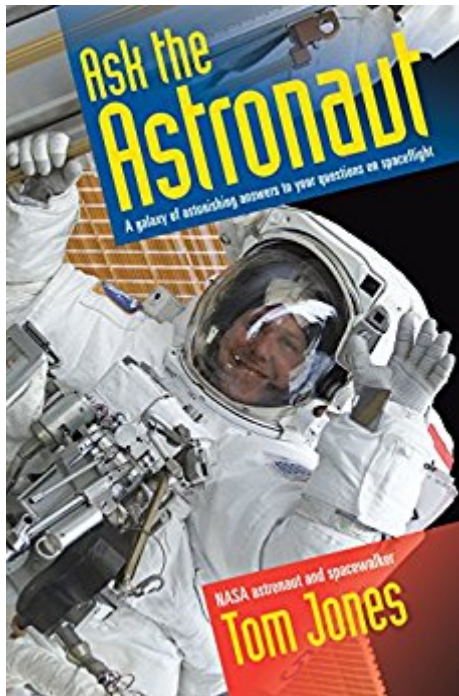


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# Ask The Astronaut: A Galaxy Of Astonishing Answers To Your Questions On Spaceflight



## Synopsis

Ever wondered what space is really like? Thanks to his 25 years of training for, flying in, consulting on, and writing and speaking about space, astronaut and spacewalker Tom Jones can answer that question and many others. What do you feel on liftoff? What is weightlessness? Where do you sleep in space? Can you see the Great Wall of China? Jones answers every question you have ever had about space in *Ask the Astronaut*. His entertaining blend of wit, personal experience, and technical expertise shines in each answer, and together all the answers illuminate the true space experience from start to finish. His engaging and informative responses remind readers of historic space achievements, acquaint them with exciting new ambitions, make them feel like they have experienced space firsthand, and even inspire an urge to explore space themselves. Jones covers everything from the training process for new astronaut candidates and the physical sensations and challenges of rocketing into orbit to what it's like to live, work, and walk in space. Jones also explores the future of spaceflight, both professional and commercial, in the years to come. *Ask the Astronaut* is a delight for all readers, especially "armchair astronauts" and younger, 21st century space explorers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is basically a book for young adults, which should be made clearer in the description. That said, there is a lot of interesting Q-and-A here on becoming and being an astronaut, and what it's like to travel and live in space. Five stars.

Back in the late 60s or early 70s, I was a student majoring in Physics at California State University, Long Beach. A few astronauts came to the college to talk about the space program. There was a huge audience and everyone was spellbound. Although we were all brilliant and looking forward to the future, we seemed to be most interested in how they went to the bathroom. We all turned into fourth graders. I seem to remember something about a big ball of urine that broke free and floated around the cabin. I've Googled it, but can't seem to find anything specific about the incident during that era, but it's definitely etched in the folds of my brain. So, when I was given the opportunity to review this book, I figured I'd skim through and then share it with some of my teenaged friends. Well, I'm not giving up this book. It is one of the most fascinating reads ever. Each chapter -- and, yes, there's a lot of information about peeing and pooping -- is incredibly entertaining and educational. Tom Jones shares his earliest memories of first becoming interested in the space program, through his studies and applications for the program, his experiences in space, information about other flights and programs, and the future. At no point does he talk down to the reader. There is enough science plus enough day-to-day information to engage anyone. I sometimes wish I'd pursued a spot in the space program, but I get car sick -- when I'm driving -- so that probably would have been a bad idea. I can't recommend this book highly enough. My title speaks my feelings. This book can be enjoyed by anyone from 10 to 100. Thanks, Tom Jones, for sharing your experiences and insights. To infinity and beyond!

As an assistant Cubmaster for my son's Cub Scout pack, we recently got the chance to sleep over at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. This book was a perfect opportunity to get my eight-year-old excited about the trip. It did not disappoint. Veteran astronaut Tom Jones answers a series of questions, grouped by topic, about everything from how to become an astronaut to what they actually do in space and on the moon. It's heady stuff that involves a lot of complex words -- "this is for advanced readers and certainly not the 5th-graders" lists as the reading range -- but

we both learned a lot. We read ten questions a night and weâ™re still making our way through the book. Jones is decidedly pro-astronaut, so if youâ™re looking for a balanced approach in his answers this isnâ™t the book for you. Heâ™s also very gentle with his criticism. As an example: one of the questions is if space camp can help make you an astronaut. Jones avoids saying âœno.â • He just politely states that space camp helps get kids enthused about becoming an astronaut and thatâ™s not a bad thing, right? That said, Jones also doesnâ™t shy away from the risky business that is space travel. He unflinchingly addresses the Challenger disaster, for example, and the innovations that came about as a result of the tragedy. If you have a child interested in the future of space travel, particularly missions to Mars (which Jones references throughout), then this book is just what the Martian ordered. Perhaps the highest praise comes from the young readers Jones hopes to inspire: My son picks which book to read and heâ™s brought âœAsk the Astronautâ • every night for a week.

There's no better way to learn about space than asking an astronaut! This is a highly readable assemblage of interesting facts that will engage any space fan. The topics take the reader from *Aspiring to Space* in chapter one, through *Working in Space* in chapter seven, all the way to a discussion of *Your Future in Space* in the concluding chapter. It's nicely constructed, taking the reader on a full journey that encompasses just about everything you might want to know, from the minutia of everyday life in space to the bigger questions surrounding Black Holes and the nature of the universe itself. Although this book is surprisingly text heavy, the conversational writing style makes it a surprisingly fast read. The accompanying photos add another dimension to the work, serving to break things up a bit and further engage readers. I do think this work would have benefited from color photos, and lots of them! The black and white ones are very good, but color would have been truly great. Still, *Ask the Astronaut* is a five star read simply because it conveys so much information in a way that is accessible and even enjoyable for young readers. Throw away those dry texts and go straight to the source. *Ask the Astronaut!*

School Library Journal says this about "Ask the Astronaut" in its May 2016 issue: JONES, Tom. *Ask the Astronaut*. 224p. diag. glossary. index. photos. Smithsonian. Mar. 2016. pap. \$12.95. ISBN 9781588345370. Gr 7 Upâ "The former space shuttle astronaut and planetary scientist has written a treasure trove of answers to FAQs about modern space flight. The text is well organized, with questions categorized into chapters that explain the different steps in the process of aspiring to, training for, and living and working in space. Jones answers scores of questions that he has

received over the years at public forums, from “Where should we send astronauts next in space?” to “Have astronauts ever seen space aliens?” Most of the book focuses on NASA’s space shuttle voyages to the International Space Station, because this is Jones’s greatest area of experience as an astronaut. The technical descriptions in the answers are a bit complex, but the firsthand details and comprehensive back matter make this an ideal addition to any junior high or high school library. VERDICT A fascinating look at space travel that will excite budding STEM students. — Kelly Kingrey-Edwards, Blinn Junior College, Brenham, TX-- (complete disclosure; I am the author and I agree with this review :-)

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