

Remarks by NASA Deputy Administrator Lori B. Garver
NASA at Kids Week
Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum
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“NASA for Kids”

Thank you, Susan, for that introduction and good afternoon to you all.

I am glad to be back here at the Intrepid. NASA was here last November, and some of you may have even attended our exhibits to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo Program.

This time, we are here to celebrate Kids...and of course your parents and grandparents! I thought I would share a bit of my journey and then show you really cool things on NASA sites that you can explore yourselves.

I didn't always have the space bug.

Growing up in central Michigan, I enjoyed tennis and cheerleading. But it was when I had the honor of working for Senator John Glenn in 1983, that I got bit.

But before I go on, who knows when the last Space Shuttle launch was?

That's right, on February 8th; we launched STS-130, Space Shuttle

Endeavour, on a mission to the International Space Station. Let's take a look...

(Now this image was just released. It is of the newly installed cupola on the Space Station showing incredible views of Earth...and tonight is the planned landing after 14 days in orbit.)

Today, space flight seems routine, but that wasn't always the case. How many of you had heard of my former boss, John Glenn? Do you know what first made him famous? Yes, yesterday marks the anniversary of John Glenn's historic trip into orbit as the first American to do so back in 1962. ...And here we are with Mrs. Glenn at last summer's Apollo Celebration.

So after working for Senator Glenn, I became Executive Director of the National Space Society where I advocated for space for 12 years,

And almost made it into space onboard a Russian rocket in 2002 when space tourism was just getting started. But, I never got my wings, unlike

Astronaut Charlie Camarda who is here with us today and will be speaking later on.

So, I am pretty much a space geek. I even named my firstborn after the creator of Star Trek! Who knows who created Star Trek?

So now that I am the second in command at NASA,

I enjoy speaking at events like Kids Week to give a little back and hopefully inspire you all to stay in school, keep studying math and science, and even help us explore new worlds, including our own.

So what if I told you there was a way for every Kid, Teacher, and Parent, anybody-- to fly alongside these NASA spacecraft – without ever having to leave their computer?

That is what a new website to study our Earth can do. A recent addition to the site is “Climate Kids”. Climate Kids needs You help Us answer some of the big questions about global climate change, while helping us all to become better stewards of our fragile planet.

Think of it as a way to check Earth's vital signs. This Global Climate Change web site offers an astounding amount of information about our environment in a dynamic, interactive format.

With the Climate Time Machine you can explore the sea level from space, track the arctic sea ice, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, map global temperatures, and see the 10.5 million square miles of the ozone hole.

The Eyes on the Earth 3D feature displays our satellites as they orbit, in real time and with actual data that is no more than three or four hours old. So who knows how many Earth science satellites NASA has in orbit right now? (Pause) Correct! NASA has 16 satellites, monitoring temperatures, ocean levels and rainfall to name a few.

So, taking the pulse of our planet isn't just for scientists. It's something everyone can do—whenever you can turn on your computer. Now you can take our planet for a spin, without even leaving the ground!

NASA benefits us all by creating advanced technologies that could produce green energy for transportation, by merging space and ground data to help disaster victims, and hopefully predict areas of concern. For example, after the tragic earthquake in Haiti, NASA took images from the International Space Station and our Earth Observation resources. Those latest images can be found at www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/haiti.html

Also, scientists are studying existing earthquake faults near Haiti through the use of space-based radar, to hopefully make predictions in the future.

Another way to become what I like to call, “Citizen Scientists” is to visit the “Observing With NASA” or “OWN” website we have through a grant with the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The site is at: <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/OWN/>

Here, you can command a telescope to research a part of the universe from your computer . You will then receive an email with your requested image at the soonest viewing opportunity.

Another one of my favorite sites is called NASA eClips.

Here, you can see real world use at NASA of what you are learning in school. I don't know about you, but it was always easier for me to learn if I could see it in action. Let's take a look at one that we should all be concerned about...(Pause for the video, ""Green: What Does that Mean?"")

Other cool sites are where you could "Be A Martian" and tour the Planet Mars. For a complete listing of these sites, please visit the various NASA exhibits here today.

How many of you know how often the International Space Station orbits the Earth? Can you believe it orbits overhead once every 90 minutes? You can go to the NASA website and enter a search for "ISS sightings" for actual viewing times (Note: website is <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/sightings/>). In fact, tomorrow morning at around 6:00 a.m. is one of the prime viewing times here in the City.

Speaking of ISS, who can tell me who is the "longest serving astronaut"?

Well, we recently had his return (cue video).

OK, that was a bit of a trick question, but, Buzz Lightyear was up on station for more than fifteen months. When you go to the NASA website, you can play a series of six different games with Buzz on ISS.

The longest-serving-American-in-space record is held by Astronaut Peggy Whitson, recently named as the head of the Astronaut Office at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. She spent 376 days, 17 hours and 22 minutes in space over the span of two spaceflights to the International Space Station.

These are several examples of how NASA is engaging you in our exploration quest. Through these new websites and technologies you are helping us discover answers to scientific questions real time!

So, in summary, NASA is proud to be a partner at Intrepid's Kids Week. I invite you to continue to explore all the exhibits and even meet Microgravity Man and Astronaut Charlie Camarda!

Also, NASA will be back in New York City June 2 – 6th for the World Science Festival. Check your local papers for event locations, and I hope you all can come participate again.

Thank you, and now I welcome your questions on how NASA can continue to inspire the children and citizens of the world. My hope is that each of you can achieve your dreams like I have through working for NASA and America's Space Program.