



## Biography - Alyssa Carson

*"Always follow your dream and don't let anyone take it from you." ~Alyssa Carson*

Ever since she was a little girl, Alyssa Carson has had her heart set on the stars. At only three years old, she told her father, "Daddy, I want to be an astronaut and be one of the people that go to Mars." He had no idea that this seemingly offhand statement would actually become the birth of a meaningful lifelong endeavor.

At just 16 years old, Alyssa's list of accomplishments includes witnessing three Space Shuttle launches, attending Space Camp seven times, Space Academy three times, Robotics Academy, Aviation Challenge, and multiple Sally Ride Camps. She is the youngest person to have graduated from Advanced Space Academy,

Alyssa received the "Right Stuff" Award, the highest award you can receive from Space Camp the first time she attended Space Camp. In 2012 and 2013, she furthered her education at Space Camp Turkey and Space Camp Canada, becoming the first person to attend all three NASA Space Camps in the world.

Alyssa is a graduate of National Flight Academy, Virginia Flight Academy, Cosmosphere, Euro Space Academy, and Gladiator School. Alyssa is also the first and only person, so far, to complete the NASA Passport program, visiting all 14 NASA Visitor Centers stretching across nine states.

In January 2013, NASA invited her to be on the Smithsonian Institution's MER 10 panel in Washington, DC, to discuss future missions to Mars live on NASA TV. She was later selected as one of seven ambassadors representing Mars One, a mission to establish a human colony on Mars in 2030.

Alyssa attended International Space University's summer program in 2015. In October of 2016, Alyssa, at the age of 15, was the youngest to be accepted and graduate Embry-Riddle's Advanced PoSSUM (Polar Suborbital Science in the Upper Mesosphere) Academy, officially certifying her as a scientist/astronaut trainee. Alyssa conducted a research project on Noctilucent Cloud Formation and underwent Space Suit Training in Zero Gs, both at locations in Canada and at Embry-Riddle in Florida.

In 2017, Alyssa was named as a Louisiana Young Hero. She has given speeches throughout the world, has appeared or been heard on numerous TV and Radio shows, and has been written up in news media in nearly every country in the world.

Alyssa currently attends Baton Rouge International School where she is an 11<sup>th</sup> grader enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program. She speaks four languages (English, Spanish, French, and Mandarin) fluently. By this April she will have earned 30 hours of college credits.

Alyssa has achieved an advanced Scuba certification and plans to complete flight training and earn her private pilot's certificate this summer.

More than anything, Alyssa is driven by an insatiable desire to live life to the fullest, to break through the ceiling of possibility, and make a positive and lasting impact on the world.

(Current as of 5 January 2018)