

# What does it take to be a NASA astronaut? Kids get tips

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**Gurgaon:** : The second edition of the Mission Discovery, India was kicked off at the Shiv Nadar School in Gurgaon with lectures by Space experts like Steven Ray Swanson among others. Half a dozen Space experts from the US and the UK are participating in the five-day workshop (October 3-7).

This is part of a globally acclaimed, experiential learning programme. More than 200 students from Shiv Nadar School and 23 other schools from Delhi / NCR and metro cities are participating in the event. Steven Ray Swanson, retired NASA astronaut, who has flown two Space shuttle flights and logged over 643 hours in Space and completed four Spacewalks, conducted a day-long workshop with students on Thursday.

"I am delighted to be back in India for the second edition of the programme. With this programme, students are getting a rare opportunity to participate in something that is unimaginable for most young people. It will not only help them gain knowledge about Space but also enhance their self-belief capabilities," Swanson said during his lecture.

**What is the most fascinating part of working at NASA?**

(Asked by Sonali Goel, Class X, Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon)

Swanson: The best part



Former NASA astronaut Steven Ray Swanson with students

of working at NASA is being able to work with a dedicated, smart and enthusiastic team. Everyone cares greatly about NASA's mission to explore Space and works very hard to achieve that goal. To be part of that is a great feeling.

**How were the plants you used in your gardening system in Space useful?**

(Aryaman Singh Dev, class X, Manav Rachna International School, Gurgaon)

Swanson: They help contain the nutrients and water needed for the plants in the microgravity environment of the international Space station (ISS). They were not perfect, but they did work.

**What do you miss the most while you were in Space?**

(Saina Chopra, Class X, Suncity World School, Gurgaon)

Swanson: Besides my family and friends, I missed good, fresh food the most.

**Did you aspire to be an astronaut as a child?**

(Varaa Sharma, class IX, Suncity World School, Gurgaon)

Swanson: No, I did not aspire to it as a child. It wasn't until I was 25 that I thought about being an astronaut and made that a goal.

**Are you given training on how to fix equipment in the Space station?**

(Moksh Dutt, Class IX, Shiv Nadar School Gurgaon)

Swanson: Yes, we are trained on how major equipment in the Space station function. We are taught how to build them and how to fix them. Also, there are people on the ground that are in constant touch with us and tell us the exact procedure on what we need to do. They are guiding us in every way. It is not only the team in the Space but also the team down on earth who work on the mission.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/what-does-it-take-to-be-a-nasa-astronaut-kids-get-tips/articleshow/60963063.cms>

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Rohit E David | TNN | Oct 6, 2017, 00:58 IST

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