

## Dreams – Space Camp

For as long as I can remember, the evening sky has prompted numerous questions about space. I would ask myself, “Does space have an end?” Sometimes I would consider a plethora of scenarios about what would happen after entering a black hole. The answers were quickly shot down by my older brother who knew “everything.”

My favorite subject in school has always been math. I appreciate the application of consistent rules and the immediate gratification of correctly solving problems. At the age of 12 years old, I realized I had learning disabilities. Initially, I was devastated and this was evident to anyone who knew me; however, that all changed when my father said, “Having a learning disability does not make you stupid. It just means you have to work a little harder.” Therefore, I focused on applying myself more diligently.

During the summer of 2017, I had the honor of interning in the mechanical engineering department at NASA Goddard Space Center. Toward the middle of the internship, my instructor noticed that I was not getting enough work and assigned me to repair a broken 3D printer. Surprisingly, I fixed it in two days. The duration of my internship consisted of working with the 3D printer, learning Matlab, and using a laser scanner. Since I enjoy working with tools, I requested more hands-on activities. He informed me about space camp and I immediately recalled all the questions regarding space from my younger days of considering the night time sky. This time I researched black holes, how close one can actually get to the sun without being destroyed, and the necessity of Earth’s orbit.

I am inspired about learning more and exploring the opportunities provided by attending space camp. If I am fortunate to obtain this scholarship, I will bring my hard-working spirit and my leadership skills to excel at each and every task!