Sarah Brodsky -

Lower Moreland High School – 10th grade

1. I have a confession to make - I’m happy that the Mars One mission doesn’t seem to be anywhere close to launching off into space or anywhere else. And not because I don’t want the flight to happen, but rather because I want to be on it when it does.

It’s arguably an impossible dream, and I’d probably be better of working towards something more realistic, like world peace or free medicine. But I’ve never liked the prospect of easy, or doable, in that matter. The doable is only doable because it has already been done. Going to the moon is possible because Neil Armstrong has done it. Putting a car into orbit is possible because Elon Musk has done it. Instead of repeating what has already been accomplished, I’d rather settle for being first to accomplish it. In this case, flying to Mars. And landing in one piece - hopefully.

But I don't only want to go to Mars simply to prove to everyone who doesn't believe in me that I can do it. Fifty years ago, the moon was the impossible, and now it is Mars. Hopefully in a few years time, with my help, Mars is going to be doable. So I ask you to be my first step to accomplishing something thought impossible.

P.S. If for some reason, I'm not in the spaceship heading for the red planet, I'm going to be on Earth helping make it happen. So even if I fail at my first goal, help me succeed at my second.

2. Whenever I begin to talk science, my mom leaves the room. It doesn't matter what topic- biochemistry, physics, etc. The same goes for almost everyone else I know - except my dad who is dyslexic (same as my mom and I), has absolute memory, and knows the answer to every question and it's not that they don't care, they do, but science is simply not their thing. I, on the other hand, am the exact opposite. I want to become an aerospace engineer. There is no capturing back story for how I became interested in science, it's simply that everything in the world, even the smallest details fascinate me. I want to know how everything works, all the way down to quarks. And no matter how much knowledge the school science teacher attempts to cram into our brains in a short nine months, it's never enough. Each summer, I leave school with more questions than I had when I came in in September. For most people, science is simply tha t- one word on their school schedule; but for me it's so much more, it's a vast place which cannot be described in just two hundred fifty words, it's the key to understanding how the world works, the magic of our existence, and the foundation of every new invention or idea. I would be an ideal candidate for this camp not because I am a genius, or think that I will become the next Albert Einstein, but simply because science is my passion and I am willing to go above and beyond to understand a fraction of our universe.