



Montgomery County Astronaut Returns After Eight Months in Space

Description

NASA astronaut Chris Williams and two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth on Sunday after an eight-month mission. They landed in Kazakhstan aboard a Soyuz capsule, marking an important milestone in international space exploration.

The crew completed a significant journey, spending 241 days in space. During this time, they orbited the Earth over 3,800 times and travelled more than 102 million miles. Their successful return highlights the ongoing collaboration between NASA and the Russian space agency, Roscosmos.

Williams, who considers Potomac, Maryland, his home, is a highly educated individual. He graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring before studying physics at Stanford University. He later earned a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining NASA in 2021, Williams focused on cancer research, particularly in developing imaging and radiation treatments.

Throughout his debut space mission, Williams participated in various scientific studies related to cancer treatment, semiconductor manufacturing, and spacecraft water systems. He also completed two spacewalks, contributing to maintenance tasks on the International Space Station's robotic arm and solar power systems.

In addition to his impressive career, Williams is an Eagle Scout, a private pilot, and has experience as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician. His expertise and diverse skill set contribute significantly to NASA's objectives.

As of now, future missions and projects are likely to continue building on the successes of this mission. Williams and his crewmates' work paves the way for advancements in space exploration and research.

Vocabulary List:

1. **milestone** /'maɪl.stoʊn/ (noun): an important event that shows progress
2. **collaboration** /kə,læbə'reɪʃən/ (noun): people or groups working together on something
3. **capsule** /'kæpsəl/ (noun): a small container used to carry people or objects
4. **orbited** /'ɔr.bɪ.tɪd/ (verb): moved in a curved path around something
5. **semiconductor** /,semɪkən'dʌktə/ (noun): a material used to make electronic parts
6. **maintenance** /'meɪn.tənəns/ (noun): work done to keep something in good condition

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. How long did the crew spend in space?

- Option: 180 days
- Option: 241 days
- Option: 300 days
- Option: 250 days

2. Where did the crew land after their mission?

- Option: In the ocean
- Option: In Kazakhstan
- Option: In the Arctic
- Option: In Texas

3. What university did Chris Williams attend?

- Option: Harvard University
- Option: Stanford University
- Option: Yale University
- Option: California Institute of Technology

4. What was Chris Williams' focus before joining NASA?

- Option: Engineering
- Option: Biology
- Option: Cancer research
- Option: Astrophysics

5. How many times did the crew orbit the Earth?

- Option: 3,000 times
- Option: 4,500 times
- Option: 3,800 times
- Option: 5,200 times

6. What is Chris Williams' rank as a scout?

- Option: Scout
- Option: Eagle Scout
- Option: Senior Scout
- Option: Trail Scout



True-False

7. Chris Williams has a doctorate from Harvard University.
8. The mission lasted for eight months.
9. NASA and Roscosmos collaborated during this mission.
10. Chris Williams also worked as a firefighter.
11. The crew travelled less than 100 million miles.
12. Williams completed three spacewalks during his mission.

Gap-Fill

13. The crew spent _____ days in space.
14. Chris Williams is from _____, Maryland.
15. They landed in _____ after their mission.
16. Williams studied physics at _____ University.
17. Before joining NASA, Williams was focused on _____ research.
18. Chris Williams is an _____ Scout.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 241 days 2. In Kazakhstan 3. Stanford University 4. Cancer research 5. 3,800 times 6. Eagle Scout

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 241 14. Potomac 15. Kazakhstan 16. Stanford 17. cancer 18. Eagle

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

POST TAG



1. astronaut
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 5
5. Montgomery County
6. returns to Earth
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Date Created

2026/07/27

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