

2016 Zero Robotics Middle School ISS Final Competition Astronaut Referee and Special Guest Biographies



Jeffrey Williams is an American Astronaut and retired US Army Colonel. He and his wife, Anna-Marie Williams, have 2 sons and 3 grandchildren. He grew up in Winter, Wisconsin and graduated from the US Military Academy with a BS in Applied Science and Engineering. He served as part of the US Army in Germany for 3 years before returning to the United States. After completing his MS at the US Naval Postgraduate School, Williams was selected to serve in the Army at the Johnson Space Center where he aided the Space Shuttle Program. In 1992, he began training as a test pilot at the Naval Test Pilot School, and in 1996 was selected as a NASA Astronaut. Since then, Williams has served as a flight engineer in 4 missions - STS-101 and Expeditions 13, 21/22, and 47/48. Currently, Williams serves as a member of the Expedition 47/48 crew aboard the ISS.

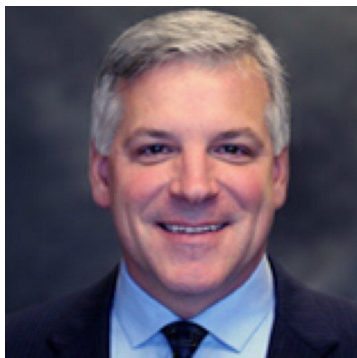
Fun Fact: Jeffrey Williams is set to break Scott Kelly's record of 520 days for the highest number of cumulative days in space, returning to Earth after his current mission with a cumulative total of 534 days in space.

Twitter: @Astro_Jeff



Oleg Skripochka is a Russian cosmonaut serving as part of the Expedition 47/48 crew aboard the ISS. Oleg and his wife, Elena, have two children: a daughter, Darya, and a son, Dennis. Skripochka graduated from Bauman State Technical University in 1993 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and went on to work as an Engineer at the Russian Space Corporation Energia for four years. In 1997, he was selected as a cosmonaut candidate. He completed his spaceflight training in the following two years and in 1999 qualified as a test cosmonaut. In his first flight, Skripochka served as a flight engineer for Expedition 25/26 which launched in 2010. After 159 days in space, he returned home and was awarded the titles, Hero of the Russian Federation and Pilot-Cosmonaut of the Russian Federation. On March 19, 2016, he returned to the ISS as part of the Expedition 47/48 crew.

Fun Fact: Oleg Skripochka is a 1st class skydiver and has completed over 300 parachute jumps.



Gregory H. Johnson is the President and Executive Director for the Center of the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS). As Executive Director, Johnson is responsible for leading the CASIS staff to maximize utilization of the International Space Station (ISS) to benefit life here on Earth. Johnson received his B.S. in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, his M.S. in flight structures engineering from Columbia University and his M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. Johnson was a decorated officer and pilot with the United States Air Force. He flew 34 combat missions in support of Operation Desert Storm and 27 missions during Operation Southern Watch. In 1994, he became a test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base. In 1998, Johnson was selected as a NASA Astronaut and ultimately piloted two Space Shuttle missions (STS-123 and STS-134, both aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour) where he spent nearly 32 days in orbit and contributed to the assembly of the ISS.

Fun Fact: Gregory Johnson was the pilot of the Endeavour's last mission to space.

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