

Nebraska Astronaut

Clay Anderson's journey from tinfoil suit to the Space Shuttle Atlantis

One might say that Clay Anderson's journey began at the young age of 4 when his mother, Alice, dressed him up in a tinfoil suit and had him march in the local parade in their hometown of Ashland, NE. Clay received 2nd place. According to his mother, he was robbed. Even so, space travel was on the mind of this Nebraska family. Clay's first memory was connected to the Apollo 8 experience. His parents woke Clay and his siblings in the middle of the night on Christmas Eve to watch the Apollo crew go behind the moon for the very first time.

"For me, the neatest thing was how scared I was when they went behind the moon, and then when they came back around the other side and I finally



heard that Quindar tone, the little beep everybody hears on TV and, when I heard that tone and I heard them start to talk again, it just gave me this really chilled feeling inside."

NET Television will present Clay Anderson's journey from an 8-year-old dreamy-eyed kid in Ashland, NE watching the Apollo crew orbit the moon to a 47-year old astronaut boarding the Shuttle Atlantis for what would become a space mission lasting 151 days, 18 hours, 23 minutes and 14 seconds.

We will meet the people who had an impact on Clay's life and decision to pursue a career as an astronaut. Clay's teachers and classmates from Ashland Public School and later from Hastings

College will share stories about the driven student and athlete who, at heart, has always been just a "Nebraska boy."



The program, shot in high-definition will begin with a hometown welcome as Clay returns to Ashland to speak to the students and reminisce with the teachers. Clay's whirlwind Nebraska homecoming will continue at the SAC Museum as Anderson is honored in front of hundreds of friends and family.

After multiple school visits (one of Anderson's favorite astronaut duties), Clay will drive to Hastings College to speak to his Alma mater. Old classmates will give us the "real" story on Clay. Was he the teachers pet? Or did he skip class to take part in basketball pick-up games?

Anderson's pride in Nebraska is evident. Upon returning to Earth on Nov. 7, 2007, his priorities were: greeting and hugging his family, getting a shower, eating a corn-fed Nebraska steak & making plans to see a Nebraska football game.

We will also have Clay take us on a tour of the Johnson Space Center – his work home. He will give us a "mini-astronaut training session & introduce us to his family at NASA including the good folks in Mission Control who helped bring this Nebraska boy home safe and sound.

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