

A SCIENTIST just like me



Emma Wride

Space Science Communicator

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Hi there! I am Emma Wride – a space science communicator



Where do I work?

I run a company called AstroCymru in Wales. I live in South Wales in the Rhondda Valleys.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved science in school and in particular physics. I enjoyed history, especially about Greeks, Romans and Kings and Queens of Britain.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love gardening, growing my own fruit and veg and pretty flowers. I have enjoyed reading books since I was a child, and love stargazing.

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What do I do as a space science communicator

I deliver astronomy and space related activity workshops to schools, festivals and public events. I do presentation talks on various astronomy topics to lots of different audiences from children to adult conferences. I also regularly contribute to radio shows and write magazine articles.



How does what I do make the world a better place?

I target schools that are from high deprivation areas to raise awareness of the various careers in the space industry in the UK. Through grant funding, I provide these areas with lots of space resources to increase knowledge about the universe.

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What I like about my job



I love how varied my job is, from launching paper rockets or making satellite models to astronaut training activities and Mars exploration experiments. I've met so many interesting people like astronauts and famous scientists, although the most satisfying part of my job is inspiring the next generation of space scientists.

Challenges I have faced

Coming from a council estate where I was exposed to child poverty, I've had to work hard to get to where I am today. That gave me the determination to pursue my passion for astronomy and do a university degree, which resulted in the fantastic career I have.

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If you want to be a Space Science Communicator, you need:

- ★ **to be enthusiastic** about your topic in order to inspire others
- ★ **to enjoy talking** to an audience with excitement to keep them engaged
- ★ **to have a passion for learning** new things as there are always new discoveries to be made
- ★ **to enjoy interacting** with lots of different personalities



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a space science communicator like Emma Wride?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a space science communicator?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for space science

Science Fun at Home – see ‘World Space Week’ and ‘Rocket Science’

Science at Work – see ‘Gene Cernan’ and ‘Meet two space scientists’

City Science Stars – practical science activities (for ages 9–11), using links to football, other sports and space

I bet you didn’t know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning and Teacher Guides describe investigations linked to the research. See:

- How to play planetary hide and seek
- One of Saturn’s moons could be a home for extra-terrestrial life
- InSight into Mars
- Ice giants at the end of the Solar System
- We have telescopes out in space studying the universe

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