Sally Ride

by Linda Bullock
When you think of stars, you may think of a sparkling night sky. But some stars live on Earth! Those stars, like astronaut Sally Ride, are people who do amazing things. Their work changes the world.

In 1978 more than 8,000 people applied to go to a school for astronauts, and for the first time, women could apply. Only 35 people were accepted, and Sally Ride was one of them.

Sally was thrilled to be part of this special school. Then, on June 18, 1983, Ride joined the crew of a space shuttle mission and rocketed beyond Earth, into space. She was the first American woman to go into space.
In 1984, Ride traveled once again on the space shuttle, conducting experiments and observing Earth using satellites. Then, she worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as head of their Office of Exploration. Later, she went to California to teach physics. Still, she wanted to do more.

Ride wanted young people to share her love for science and technology. So in 2001, she started Sally Ride Science to help spread her knowledge. To this day, her company gives teachers and students the chance to do real science. It also sponsors fairs where young participants meet and work with scientists.

Ride was a scientist, a teacher, an astronaut, a writer, and a company president. She was also a symbol of bravery, commitment, and adventure. Sally Ride died in 2012. Yet for those she inspired, her star will always shine.