

Sally Ride

May 26, 1951- July 23, 2012

Double major in English and Physics at Stanford
University

Bachelors in 1973, Masters in 1975, and Ph.D. in 1978

Swarthmore College

Research area: Astrophysics

Biography: Sally Ride grew up in Los Angeles, California. Ride was the oldest of two daughters of Dale B. Ride and Carol Joyce (Sally Ride Biography). Ride enjoyed several different sports but tennis was her favorite, she even ranked on the national junior tennis court. Her ability to perform well in tennis also earned her a partial scholarship at Westlake School for Girls (Sally Ride Biography). In high school Ride became interested in physics and decided to attend Swarthmore College in the physics program. Ride became invested in tennis and eventually left Swarthmore College. Ride also attended Stanford University from 1973 to 1978. Ride decided to go to Stanford for a double major in English and Physics. Ride ended up receiving a Ph.D. in physics. Ride applied to be a mission specialist for NASA and was accepted. On June 12, 1986, she was launched on the Challenger mission as the first American woman in space.

Research:

Ride was an astronaut and became a mission specialist (Sally Ride). According to the Sally Ride biography, “as a mission specialist, she helped deploy satellites and worked other projects” (Sally Ride). Ride later on became the director and a professor of physics at the California Space Institute at the University of California, San Diego in 1989 (Sally Ride). Ride decided to start her own company in 2001 in pursuit of creating educational programs to inspire girls and young women to pursue their interests in science and math (Sally Ride).

Awards, Honors, and Special Recognitions:

Inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame

Received the Jefferson Award for Public Service

Received the Von Braun Award

Received the Lindbergh Eagle

Received the NCAA's Theodore Roosevelt Award

Awarded the NASA Space Flight Medal award twice (NASA)