

# Neil harvard and a doctorate in astrophysics



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Neil DeGrasse Tyson, America's favorite astrophysicist, was born on October 5th, 1958 in New York City. Since Neil was very young, he was always interested in astronomy. Eventually this would lead him to be one of the most famous scientists of our lifetime. At the age of nine, Tyson had visited the Hayden planetarium, where he now serves as the director.

At the time, this was one of the most inspiring moments of his life and led to him pursuing a life of astronomy. Before he had even graduated high school, he had already received a personal letter from Carl Sagan, a world famous astronomer at the time. Tyson went on to earn a master's degree in Physics from Harvard and a Doctorate in astrophysics from Columbia University (Biography). This got Neil a job at the Hayden Planetarium where he first found his love for the cosmos. Perhaps one of the most notable achievements to come from Neil DeGrasse Tyson was the reclassification of Pluto from a planet to a "Dwarf Planet" Tyson's reasoning was that Pluto was among many other smaller bodies far out in the solar system, smaller than our own moon, and it would not make sense to call these bodies, including Pluto, planets, because there are simply too many of these objects. This was received both in a negative way from people who said that their favorite planet was Pluto, even getting him sent a very angry letter from a child in elementary school asking him to please change Pluto back to a planet because the "people who live on Pluto" would vanish.

Aside from some of the public receiving this poorly, the rest of the scientific community supported this idea and is one of the most notable things he has done.

Neil DeGrasse Tyson is famed for explaining hard to understand things in a way that everyone can understand, or as he says "

One of my goals is to bring the universe down to Earth in a way that further excites the audience to want more,” (Biography). Arguably Tyson's most well-known TV series appearance was “Cosmos” which he hosted for National Geographic. The miniseries was a remake of the series also called “Cosmos” which was aired in 1980. When it aired in 2014, it was very well received, conveying complex scientific topics like the origins of life to the “Cosmic Calendar” and our spot on it. Tyson has also served as a presidential advisor for the future of aerospace in 2001, under the Bush administration. He has hosted the show Startalk since 2014, and he had hosted a podcast also called Startalk prior to this. If you live in New York, you'll know the term “Manhattanhenge” (Telegraph) which happens twice each year.

Tyson coined the term for the event where the sun aligns with the streets of the city. Neil currently continues to host Startalk and makes constant appearances in the media addressing scientific issues, in his well-spoken, humorous, and easy to understand manner. In my opinion, Neil's biggest achievement is hosting the show Cosmos. As discussed earlier, Neil's childhood role model was Carl Sagan who originally hosted the show Cosmos in 1980, so for Neil to be the one to host the new version in 2014, is a spectacular achievement, and in my opinion, what put him on the public radar even more so than before. For me the show was one of those experiences that really got me thinking about the universe, and it was very easy to follow, even having only a middle school education at the time. I find that this show demonstrated his ability to explain things so that they could be easily understood very well. Moving on from that, if I was asked if I would want to be him, I would have to say no. This honestly has nothing to do with Neil

DeGrasse Tyson and everything to do with the fact that I'm happy as who I am.

I don't think it would be a bad life to be him, but I'm nowhere near as smart as Mr. Tyson. I think it's worth looking over all of Neil's Achievements, so below is a chart highlighting his career as an Astrophysicist and TV personality.