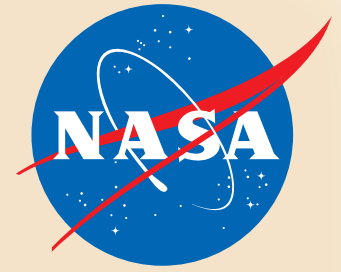


Meet Katherine Johnson...



Date of Birth: August 26, 1918

Hometown: White Sulphur Springs, WV

Education: B.S., Mathematics and French,
West Virginia State College, 1937

Hired by NACA: June 1953

Retired from NASA: 1986

Early Years: By thirteen, Katherine was attending high school on the campus of the historically black West Virginia State College. At eighteen, she enrolled in the college itself, where she made quick work of the school's math curriculum and found a mentor in math professor W. W. Schieffelin Claytor, the third African American to earn a PhD in Mathematics. Katherine graduated with highest honors in 1937 and took a job teaching at a black public school in Virginia.

Career Notes:

She didn't want to just do the work -- she wanted to know the "hows" and the "whys" and then the "why nots." None of the other women had ever asked questions before, but by asking questions, Johnson began to stand out.

Johnson became part of the team to send mankind to the moon, and she began her work on calculating the trajectory for America's first space trip with Alan Shepherd's 1961 mission, an early step toward a moon landing. **She went on to do the calculations for the first actual moon landing in 1969.**



"We wrote our own textbook, because there was no other text about space. We just started from what we knew. We had to go back to geometry and figure all of this stuff out."

One of the lessons Johnson shares from her life is to **do what you love.**

"I went to work every day for 33 years happy. Never did I get up and say I don't want to go to work."

**Katherine Johnson IV&V Facility
in Fairmont, WV**

www.nasa.gov/centers/ivv

On December 11, 2018, **NASA renamed the building that houses their Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Program in honor of this WV native** and beloved mathematician. In addition, the Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility (CRF) is part of NASA's Langley Research Center, in Hampton, VA and was dedicated in her honor on September 22, 2017. Johnson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, and was inducted into the Paul E. Garber First Flight Society Shrine on Dec. 17 2018 at the Wright Brothers National Memorial.