



From vision to impact: empowering the next generation through Space- Candace Johnson

The Cosmic Girls Foundation recently welcomed young women from across the world to an extraordinary webinar that became far more than a conversation about careers in space. It was a celebration of possibility, perseverance, and the responsibility we all share to use space for the benefit of humanity.

Opening the session, Mindy Howard, founder and CEO of the Cosmic Girls Foundation, reminded participants that this community exists to ensure that no girl with a dream of space ever feels alone. The Foundation's mission is simple yet profound: to connect girls with role models, knowledge, and opportunities so they can see themselves as future scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and leaders.

That mission came vividly to life through the voice of the day's guest speaker, **Candace Johnson**, a pioneering entrepreneur whose career has shaped the global satellite and telecommunications landscape. Her journey - from a child fascinated by a transistor radio to a co-founder of one of the world's largest satellite systems - demonstrated how curiosity, courage, and service can transform industries.

Space as a tool for humanity

Rather than presenting a traditional lecture, Ms. Johnson shared her life story as a poem, an artistic reflection on how space and communication have guided her purpose. She spoke of satellites not as distant machines, but as instruments of connection: enabling education, safeguarding oceans and forests, improving agriculture, and bringing internet access to remote communities.

Her message echoed a core principle embraced by the United Nations: space is not an end in itself, it is a means to advance sustainable development, peace, and human dignity. From monitoring wildfires to supporting disaster response, the applications she described illustrated how space technology directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals. For many participants, this perspective was transformative. Space suddenly felt less like an exclusive frontier and more like a shared resource, one that needs diverse voices and talents.

Breaking barriers, building bridges

Ms. Johnson spoke candidly about being, for many years, the only woman in the room. Instead of accepting that reality, she helped change it, founding global networks for women in telecommunications and advocating for gender parity on corporate boards across Europe.

Her advice to the girls was clear: "If you see a wrong and you can correct it, you must."

She encouraged them to think beyond traditional definitions of "space careers." A biologist protecting coral reefs, a lawyer shaping space governance, or a software engineer designing





data systems are all part of the space ecosystem. What matters is not the title, but the impact.

Access for every nation, every girl

One of the most powerful discussions centered on equity in the global space economy. Participants asked how young people from countries with limited space infrastructure could contribute. Ms. Johnson emphasized that every nation has the right to benefit from space and that emerging space-faring countries must be supported to develop their own capabilities.

This aligns closely with international efforts to ensure that space remains accessible and sustainable for all an objective shared by organizations such as UNOOSA. The conversation highlighted the importance of responsible governance, protection of dark and quiet skies, and the need for new voices in policy debates.

Entrepreneurship with purpose

When asked how girls can think more like entrepreneurs, Ms. Johnson shifted the focus from skills to values. Entrepreneurship, she said, begins with a vision to solve a real problem, whether that is expanding internet access, protecting the planet, or creating fairer opportunities.

Her “ABCs of realizing your vision” resonated deeply:

- Believe in yourself
- Ignore negativity
- Just do it
- Give more than you plan to
- Never give up

These lessons reflected the spirit of the Cosmic Girls Foundation: confidence grows when girls are trusted to lead, experiment, and dream big.

A community taking flight

As the session closed, the chat filled with messages of gratitude from participants in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Many said it was the most inspiring way they could have spent their Saturday. Parents asked how to nurture daughters interested in space; students requested mentoring; others simply wrote, “Now I believe I can do this.”

This is the true impact of the program. Beyond technical knowledge, it offers something equally vital, a sense of belonging in the space community.

The Cosmic Girls Foundation will continue to host webinars, mentorship circles, and hands-on learning experiences so that today’s participants become tomorrow’s innovators. Recordings will be shared on the Foundation’s YouTube channel, and new speakers will soon join the journey, including two remarkable new ambassadors whose stories will further expand what girls believe is possible.





Looking forward

Space belongs to all humankind. Ensuring that girls are part of its future is not only a matter of fairness, it is essential for creativity, sustainability, and peace.

As Ms. Johnson reminded us, the greatest happiness comes from using our talents to make the world and the universe better. The girls who joined this webinar are already taking that first step.

The next chapter of space will be written by them.

For more information about upcoming events or mentorship opportunities, visit the Cosmic Girls Foundation channels and join a growing global movement of girls reaching for the stars.

Or see the whole story on our YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/amkYqMu4vnl>

