

Why send people instead of just robots into space?

- 1) Because it causes most of us to lift our eyes up from the ground and look outwards, something we humans have done for a long time.
- 2) If the first exodus from Africa had never happened we would never have been so successful a species as we are now. We also would probably not be here now.
- 3) Because it is the highest cause to which we aspire.
- 4) Because it is exciting for the human spirit.
- 5) Because it challenges us to push the envelope. If you don't push the envelope you stagnate and eventually retreat to insignificance.
- 6) Because of what happened to nations in the past who turned their backs on exploration, two names Portugal and China show how a nation can go from preeminence to almost irrelevance in a short period of time.
- 7) Because it is the greatest experiment that requires all nations to participate together. What better way to come together?
- 8) Because we will eventually, one way or another, need to defend ourselves against some solar system detritus. Only a strong presence in space can do that.
- 9) Because robots cannot be inspired.
- 10) Because sending my 35mm Instamatic to the Grand Canyon does not a vacation or expedition make.
- 11) Because I do not wish to spend any more of my life in virtual reality. I want real reality.
- 12) Because sending robots will produce new technologies in electronics, materials and a few other disciplines, but sending people will result in thousands of new technologies and disciplines, from medicines to zero-g flower arranging.
- 13) Because if we send anything less than all that we are to the stars then we are diminished.
- 14) Because Robots don't write poems or paint pictures.
- 15) Because I would not have liked to see Star Wars with just R2-D2 in it. ;>)
- 16) Because humans make robots look like what they really are, just souped up toasters.
- 17) Because I know of no robot that has actually expressed an interest about going into space.
- 18) Because I am human and I want to go.
- 19) Because it's NOT just about the science.

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