



# Alexis Wolfe

## Chief of Staff



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### What does a Chief of Staff do?

A normal day for me includes managing several teams dedicated to normal office functions, leading initiatives focused on expanding the awareness of the value of our office to the NESDIS and NOAA mission, and having one-on-one conversations with employees to help them address challenges and celebrate successes.

### How is your job a space job?

My role enables me to help leadership make and implement recommendations to advance the strategic focus of STAR. I am highly involved in both evaluating how STAR is aligned to the NESDIS/NOAA mission and how our activities and accomplishments are communicated to the general public. Basically, I get to talk about how our products and services impact the lives of people every day!

### What kind of impact does your job have?

While launching satellites into space and being able to use the data they collect to help forecast extreme events and save lives is critical to the NOAA mission, the people that enable those essential functions are our agency's greatest asset. My primary goal as Chief of Staff is ensuring STAR staff are happy, healthy, and have access to all the tools, connections, and resources to be able to make innovative products and services from the space-based observations NOAA satellites take in order to meet our goals.

### What was one of the biggest challenges you've faced and overcame in becoming a Chief of Staff?

Speaking in group settings used to be something I avoided at all costs. I've definitely had to face this challenge head-on as a Chief of Staff of a 500+ person office, and have found that recognizing that no one is judging me when I stumble over a word or two and that you always have the ability to stop and start over



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when you make a mistake or speak too quickly has dramatically boosted my confidence in talking to large groups!

### What were your interests when you were growing up?

I was obsessed with tornadoes as a little girl and dreamed of being a storm-chaser. When I was a teenager I constantly checked out NASA astronaut manuals from the local library.

### What are some of the classes you should take to become a Chief of Staff?

I recommend taking classes focused on how science is communicated and used to make policy and management decisions. Public administration and social science classes are also key!