



Scott Parazynski

ADVENTURER / EXPLORER · AUTHOR

Astronaut, Everest climber, Physician and CEO of Fluidity Technologies

The first explorer to have both flown in space & climbed to the summit of Mount Everest, Scott is a best-selling author, CEO and gifted communicator who can help take your organization to new heights!

Scott Parazynski's 2026 Biography

Scott Parazynski's Background

Dr. Scott Parazynski is an expert in leadership under adversity, and deriving the very best from multidisciplinary teams. He has spoken all over the world about the rigors, risks and rewards of exploration in extreme environments, deriving important lessons in teamwork, risk management and innovation under the most demanding circumstances, on or off the planet. Your audience will be left breathless but empowered with real-world tools to elevate their organization in an increasingly competitive world.

Among his many presentations, he has:

- Delivered hundreds of keynotes to corporate leaders, industry and scientific conventions, and major non-profit organizations
- Presented Medical Grand Rounds at some of the world's most prestigious medical schools, hospitals and conferences
- Appeared on all major US broadcast networks as well as many overseas TV networks, discussing various aspects of the space program, the importance of exploration, STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and technological innovation
- Filmed as team physician and summit climber during Discovery Channel's 3rd season of "Everest: Beyond the Limit," as well as the Science Channel's "Secret Space Escapes."

Scott has lived and traveled all over the world, spending many of his grade school and high school years in places such as Dakar, Senegal; Beirut, Lebanon; Tehran, Iran; and Athens, Greece. A graduate of Stanford University and Stanford Medical School, he went on to train at Harvard and in Denver in preparation for a career in emergency medicine and trauma. Dr. Parazynski has numerous publications in the field of space physiology with particular expertise in human adaptation to stressful environments.

AVAILABLE FOR

- After Dinner Engagement
- Guest Appearance
- Panel Participation
- Speaking

SCOTT'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Future of Technology

LANGUAGES: English

In 1992 he was selected to join NASA's Astronaut Corps and eventually flew 5 Space Shuttle Missions and conducted 7 spacewalks ("Extravehicular Activity," or EVAs). In his 17 years as an Astronaut, he served in numerous senior leadership roles, including EVA Branch Chief and the Lead Astronaut for Space Shuttle Thermal Protection System Inspection & Repair (in the aftermath of the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy). Mission highlights include a global ozone mapping mission on STS-66; leading the first joint US-Russian spacewalk during STS-86 while docked to the Russian space station Mir; serving as Senator John Glenn's crewmate and "personal physician" during STS-95; and conducting EVA assembly of the Canadian-built space station arm during STS-100.

In October 2007, Scott led the EVA team on STS-120, a highly complex space station assembly flight, during which he performed 4 EVAs (becoming only the second astronaut to perform four EVAs on a single Space Shuttle mission). The fourth and final EVA is regarded by many as one of the most challenging and dangerous ever performed.

During the EVA he was positioned by a 90-foot robotic boom farther than any orbiting astronaut had ever ventured from the safety of their airlock. During this EVA he had to repair a fully energized solar array wing. The tremendous coordinated effort in orbit and on the ground by Mission Control and other engineering experts has been likened to the Space Shuttle and Space Station era's "Apollo 13 moment."

In addition to being a life-long SCUBA diver and accomplished mountaineer, Scott is also a commercial, instrument, multiengine and seaplane-rated pilot with over 2,500 flight hours. He began climbing in his teens, and has climbed in the Alaska Range, the Cascades, the Rockies, the Alps, the Andes and the Himalayas. On his second attempt to scale Mt. Everest, on May 20, 2009, he became the first astronaut to stand on top of the world. Further, as part of a NASA-sponsored expedition to the high Andes, he conducted a scientific dive in the summit caldera lake of 19,700-foot Licancabur volcano, the world's highest lake.

He recently served as Founding Director and Chief Medical Officer of UTMB's Center for Polar Medical Operations where he oversaw the medical screening and on-ice care of the National Science Foundation's US Antarctic Program, and was fortunate to travel widely across the most remote continent on earth.

Dr. Parazynski is a serial entrepreneur, currently leading OnwardAir, a highly disruptive hybrid-electric VTOL aircraft company, as well as developing a variety of medical devices. He is a prolific inventor and product developer, and serves on the Boards of several technology companies.

He is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards, including: the US Astronaut Hall of Fame, five NASA Spaceflight Medals, two NASA Distinguished Service Medals, two NASA Exceptional Service Medals, two Vladimir Komarov Diplomas from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, two Flight Achievement Awards from the American Astronomical Association, the Aviation Week Laureate Award, the Antarctica Service Medal, the Ellis Island Family Heritage Award, the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Polish Culture, the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Award, the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and the Lowell Thomas Award from the Explorers Club.

A Top 10 competitor in the 1988 US Olympic Luge Team trials and coach

for the Philippines during the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games, he was selected as an Honorary Captain of the 2010 US Olympic Luge Team for the Vancouver Games. Additionally, he is a member of the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame and was awarded the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Military University of Technology in Warsaw, Poland.

Scott is the author of his #1 best-selling memoir, *The Sky Below: A True Story of Summits, Space and Speed*, along with collaborative writer Susy Flory.

Scott Parazynski's 2026 talks & topics

Leadership Under Extreme Adversity, on and Off the Planet

Scott has brought diverse teams together, challenging enormous odds on, well above and underneath the earth's surface. Drawing on his lessons learned from the harsh vacuum of space, the route to the summit of Everest, and within tense operating rooms and board rooms, he relates attributes of situationally appropriate leadership and company culture that have yielded enormous successes over many years. Punctuated by great storytelling, breathtaking imagery and a self deprecating good humor, his style is relatable and inspirational to all audiences!

Murphy's Law on the Final Frontier: You'd Better Be Prepared!

Dr. Parazynski has spoken all over the world about the rigors, risks and rewards of exploration in extreme environments, deriving important lessons in teamwork, risk management and leadership under the most demanding circumstances, on or off the planet.

He derives lessons from a wide range of spaceflight missions and mountaineering expeditions where in-depth preparation saved the day, and often much more. A focused approach to preparation for critical tasks leads to success, even if via unforeseen "detours."

The Road Less Traveled: Finding Your Way Towards Really Making a Difference

Dr. Parazynski has spoken all over the world about the rigors, risks and rewards of exploration in extreme environments, deriving important lessons in teamwork, risk management and leadership under the most demanding circumstances, on or off the planet.

He derives lessons from an international upbringing in war-torn Beirut and Tehran, from those who inspired him to pursue his passions, and from "the view from the top of the planet," which he attained via rocket as well as on foot... As he says: "Life's greatest lessons come from outside the classroom" - based on the people we meet, the experiences we pursue, and having an openness to new challenges. Through perseverance, rigorous preparation and a willingness to fail every once and awhile, enormous rewards often ensue... He shares his path through life with stunning imagery, good humor and relatable anecdotes. Your employees will see their own pathways towards making a difference!

Managing Risk Vs. "taking Risk"

Scott has zoomed down luge tracks at breakneck speeds, flown high performance supersonic aircraft, walked in space at considerable peril, summited Mount Everest after rupturing a lumbar disc on his first attempt, performed a scientific dive in the world's highest lake and faced myriad other technical challenges in the planet's most extreme environments – but he is no daredevil.

He prepares for work in these challenging realms by exhaustive study, training, previsualization (of success as well as overcoming obstacles) and having a backup to the backup plan. Knowing how complex systems work and how they might fail is one of many skills in his toolkit, and his lessons learned are imminently relatable to all industries. An approachable storyteller, he warmly shares his experiences in a way that leaves audiences knowing they can translate them into their own lives.

The Opportunity & the Obligation to Innovate

The Requisite Innovator's Mindset: Open-mindedness and the relentless hunt for problems that need to be fixed.

For a company to be truly disruptive and grow, it must create an environment wherein every employee is not only allowed to contribute to the advancement of the mission, they feel a deep-seated Obligation to Innovate. That's the kind of environment and work ethic Scott has spent a lifetime advancing: from developing tools and techniques to recover from the Space Shuttle Columbia accident to developing innovative medical devices and enhancing safety on the slopes of the world's highest mountains, he draws on his background working in extreme environments as a catalyst for innovation in daily life.

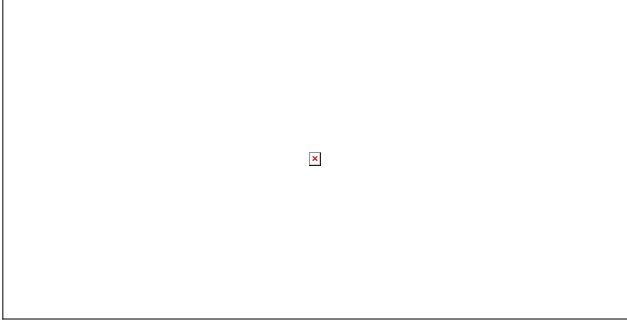
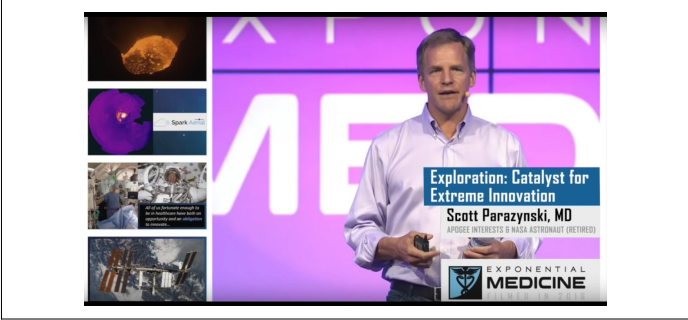
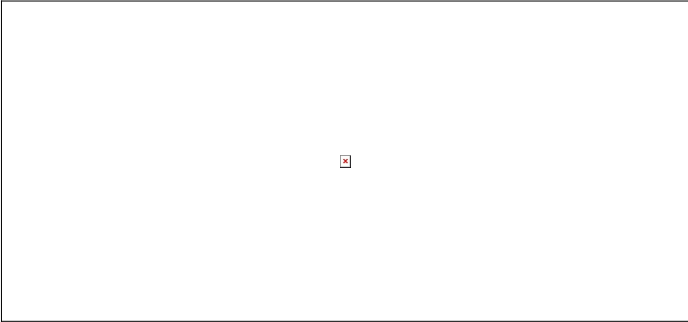
He can transfer this mindset to your workforce with powerful examples from aerospace, medicine, mountaineering and everyday life with engaging, relatable stories and good humor!

Tenacity Redefined: Achieving the Summit of Everest from Space and on Foot!

Scott first read of the early heroic and sometimes tragic conquests of Everest as a young boy, but it wasn't until he ogled it from 250 miles straight up – from the overhead windows of Space Shuttle Atlantis – that he really committed to getting there on foot one day. His path to the physical summit was zig-zagged but unwaivering.

He tells his tales with self-deprecation and good humor, fighting back after a serious back injury high on the mountain to return the next year a half inch shorter but twice as committed...! This is an exciting and inspirational story of tenacity and teamwork that appeals to a wide range of corporate clients.

Scott Parazynski's Videos



What Scott Parazynski's clients say

You better hand out seat belts for your next event as Scott has a way engaging with the audience that makes them want to stand up and cheer. Hire him today, you'll be thanking me tomorrow

Greg Reid
Forbes and Inc Top Rated Keynote Speaker, Secret Knock

We recently had the pleasure and privilege of having physician, astronaut, mountain climber and humanitarian Scott Parazynski, M.D. speak at our annual American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery meeting in Denver, Colorado. As president of the society, I sought out a speaker who would inspire, attract and grab the attention of our membership, and maybe even make me look smart for bringing him in. I got so much more than I expected.

On first contact, I found I was speaking to a nice, ordinary-sounding guy, excited to come speak and curious about our unique group. Our full-house was spellbound for Scott's entire presentation. When the announcement first went out, our high-achievers flocked to the huge meeting hall partly expecting to feel somewhat in awe and unaccomplished in comparison to this superman of human achievement.

In addition, many felt he might be unapproachable with so many wanting to see for themselves what someone who has done so many amazing things would be like. The reality was far better than we could have expected. The only shortcoming of the talk for most of our members, was that it wasn't 3 hours long. We were spellbound by the fantastic images accompanied by real-life descriptions of each experience.

I believe the entire membership left the lecture hall feeling we could accomplish so many more of our dreams. The talk opened up the possibility of chasing one's dreams, and reaching higher, having seen the literal and figurative heights that Scott has attained, with extreme effort, bravery and fear, successes and failures. In short, you should not miss having Scott Parazynski speak at your event, whatever it may be. The fantastic story of a young boy chasing his dreams opens up possibilities in anyone's life, who is lucky enough to hear Scott speak. The lecture is delivered by a thoroughly brilliant, pleasant, humble, and witty guy you could envision hanging out with.

President, American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery

Your experiences as a NASA astronaut and adventurer gave our business audience a fresh perspective on the "No Guts, No Glory" conference theme and helped set the positive tone for the rest of the event. Our goal was to provide participants with new strategies and avenues for success in a changing economy, and your talk helped us achieve the right collective mindset to start things off.

CEO, Outsell, Inc.

I invited Scott to share his passion and experiences interacting with the public at a NASA-wide meeting in Boulder in September, 2010. My audience was totally captivated by Scott's warm personality, and he was able to quickly connect with the participants and actively engage them in his talk. As the only astronaut that has flown five times in space and scaled Mt. Everest, Scott has a unique perspective on engaging the public in the wonders of space and science. He shares his passion and perspective every day through his career and extra-curricular activities, and I was extremely pleased with the outcome of his talk.

Human Exploration and Mission Operations Directorate, NASA Headquarters

On behalf of the European Tech Tour Association I would like to congratulate you on your superb presentation to the 150 of the world's prominent leaders in the medical technology sector on the occasion of the launch of the European MedTech Summit. As you know the vision of the European MedTech Summit is to gather the ecosystem of MedTech in Switzerland every other year to offer world leaders the opportunity to participate in this "Olympics for MedTech CEOs".

Your inspiring presentation at the gala dinner of our Summit was a phenomenal way to communicate the importance of leadership and vision in reaching monumental achievements. The overwhelming response of the senior executives at the event is a testament to your superb skill in connecting with your audience and conveying the lessons you have learned during the extraordinary journeys you have embarked on during your own life. Thank you for sharing your inspirational stories and we look forward to welcoming you again to future Summits.

Chairman, European Medtech Summit

Scott Parazynski's 2026 speaking fees

Specific fees fall within the ranges shown. These are presented as a guide only and are subject to change without notice.

	EUR	GBP	USD
Home Country	Please enquire	Please enquire	Please enquire
Asia Pacific	€40000 to €90000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Europe	€40000 to €90000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Middle East & Africa	€40000 to €90000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
South America	€40000 to €90000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
United Kingdom	€40000 to €90000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
US East Coast	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
US West Coast	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000
Virtual	€12000 to €40000	£10,001 - £35,000	\$15000 - \$50000