



# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009



THE UNIVERSE : YOURS TO DISCOVER

## How Families Can Get Involved in IYA

If you are a parent or grandparent here are some ideas for how your family can participate in the International Year of Astronomy 2009, celebrating 400 years since Galileo began observing the heavens through his telescope.

- Visit the international IYA2009 website and watch the trailer. ([www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org))
- Visit the U.S. IYA2009 website for new developments, programs, and materials: ([www.astronomy2009.us](http://www.astronomy2009.us)) (and also see NASA's website at: [astronomy2009.nasa.gov/](http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/))
- Visit the website of the IYA2009-affiliated TV program *400 Years of the Telescope* ([www.pbs.org/400years/](http://www.pbs.org/400years/)), and watch the trailer. The program will be shown on PBS and at planetariums around the world starting April 10, 2009.
- Download free astronomy activities online that will allow your family to begin exploring the night sky by eye, through binoculars or with a telescope. Suggested websites for more information and activities you can do at home:
  - Family Astro ([www.astrosociety.org/education/family.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/education/family.html))
  - NASA for Kids ([www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/index.html)) and (<http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/news.htm>) for the monthly calendar of suggested objects to observe and related activities
  - Seeing in the Dark ([www.pbs.org/seeinginthedark/](http://www.pbs.org/seeinginthedark/))
- Take a trip to visit your local observatory or planetarium, or get involved with a local astronomy club. ([www.skyandtelescope.com/community/organizations](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/organizations) and [nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-map.cfm](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-map.cfm)) Attend summer Astronomy Nights in the Parks, sponsored by the U.S. National Park Service. ([www.darkskiesawareness.org](http://www.darkskiesawareness.org) and click on "Nights in the National Parks")
- Host a neighborhood star party and get the families on your block excited about looking through a telescope. ([www.jsc.nasa.gov/sightings/](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/sightings/)) Use these helpful IYA Discovery guides and activities ([www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html)). Join the international star party Galilean Nights during October 22-24, 2009. ([www.galileannights.org](http://www.galileannights.org))
- Visit NASA's EPO's web comic strip which is a fun, educational tool with new episodes posted every Monday: <http://epo.sonoma.edu/EposChronicles/>
- Participate in star counting events to raise awareness about dark skies and light pollution:
  - How Many Stars – an ongoing global citizen science program ([www.sternhell.at](http://www.sternhell.at))
  - Great World Wide Star Count, October 9-23, 2009, and October every year ([www.starcount.org](http://www.starcount.org))
  - GLOBE at Night, March near new moon every year ([www.globe.gov/GaN/](http://www.globe.gov/GaN/))
  - Earth Hour, March every year ([www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org))

**Please visit the U.S. International Year of Astronomy website: [www.astronomy2009.us](http://www.astronomy2009.us)  
and the International Year of Astronomy website: [www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)**