



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009

THE UNIVERSE : YOURS TO DISCOVER



How Small Science Centers Can Get Involved in IYA

If you are at a small observatory or science center staffed primarily by volunteers, here are some ideas for how you can participate in the International Year of Astronomy 2009, celebrating 400 years since Galileo began observing the heavens through his telescope. We hope that the programs and connections that come out of IYA2009 will continue for many years to come!

Ways to get connected and learn more about IYA right away:

- Visit the international IYA2009 website; watch the IYA2009 movie trailer, and show it while an audience is waiting for other events to begin. (www.astronomy2009.org)
- Visit the U.S. IYA2009 website for new developments, programs and materials (www.astronomy2009.us). Also see NASA's website (astronomy2009.nasa.gov/), which has a monthly calendar of suggested objects to observe and related activities.
- Visit the website of the IYA2009-affiliated TV program *400 Years of the Telescope* (www.pbs.org/400years/), watch the movie trailer, and sign up for their newsletter about IYA2009 events. Other free newsletters with IYA2009 and astronomy updates are written by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (www.astrosociety.org/pubs/newsletter.html) and Universe Today (www.universetoday.com/, sign up on the right-side toolbar).

Grassroots projects (little or no cost):

- Make sure your organization is listed in national online directories, such as:
www.skyandtelescope.com/community/organizations
www.astronomy.com/asy/community/groups/
www.astroleague.org/al/general/society.html
- Give a talk about IYA2009 events and activities. You can download several appropriate *PowerPoint* presentations at www.astronomy2009.org/resources/presentations/. You can augment your presentations with the IYA2009 movie trailers mentioned above.
- The "How to Get Involved in IYA2009" webpage has handouts for groups such as teachers, families, amateur astronomers, home school groups and more. (www.astronomy2009.us/getinvolved/)

Please visit the U.S. International Year of Astronomy website: www.astronomy2009.us
and the International Year of Astronomy website: www.astronomy2009.org

International Year of Astronomy 2009

How Small Science Centers Can Get Involved in IYA, cont.

Grassroots projects, continued:

- 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)
 - Great World Wide Star Count, October 9-23, 2009, and October every year (www.starcount.org)
 - GLOBE at Night, March near new moon every year (www.globe.gov/GaN/)
 - Earth Hour, March every year (www.earthhour.org)
- Contact your local PBS station for a list of upcoming astronomy specials, and publicize and/or show these broadcasts at your science center, including *400 Years of the Telescope*. (www.pbs.org/400years/)
- Hold star parties and/or sidewalk astronomy IYA2009 events on these dates:
 - October 22-24, Galilean Nights (www.galileannights.org)
 - December 31, Once in a Blue Moon - IYA2009 Closing EventsSee www.astronomy2009.us/howtohost/ to "Pick a Date" for other events.
- Host a family astronomy night with related activities. You can find free activities at these and other websites:
 - Family Astro (www.astrosociety.org/education/family.html)
 - NASA for Kids (www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/index.html)
 - Seeing in the Dark (www.pbs.org/seeinginthedark/)
- Use IYA Discovery guides (www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html) which include monthly hands-on activities that are related to NASA's featured celestial targets and visit <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-search.cfm> for a database of many astronomy education materials.

If you have funding (or the ability to do local fundraising):

- Purchase Galileoscopes (www.galileoscope.org) and give kids the opportunity to build a simple telescope similar to Galileo's and to look at the same objects as Galileo did: observe the craters on the Moon, the phases of Venus, the moons of Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn.
- Print out or install a "From Earth to the Universe" astronomy image exhibit. (www.fromearthtotheuniverse.org/)

**Please visit the U.S. International Year of Astronomy website: www.astronomy2009.us
and the International Year of Astronomy website: www.astronomy2009.org**