



# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009

THE UNIVERSE : YOURS TO DISCOVER



## How Amateur Astronomers Can Get Involved in IYA

If you're an astronomy enthusiast at any level, from armchair astronomer to casual observer to advanced amateur, here are some ideas for how you and your astronomy club can participate in the International Year of Astronomy 2009, celebrating 400 years since Galileo began observing the heavens through his telescope.

### Ways to get involved and learn more about IYA2009 right away:

- Visit the international IYA2009 website ([www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org)) and watch the movie trailer, and the U.S. national IYA2009 website ([www.astronomy2009.us](http://www.astronomy2009.us)).
- Visit the website of the IYA2009-affiliated TV program *400 Years of the Telescope* ([www.pbs.org/400years/](http://www.pbs.org/400years/)), watch the trailer, and sign up for the program's free newsletter. Other free newsletters with IYA2009 and astronomy updates are written by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific ([www.astrosociety.org/pubs/newsletter.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/pubs/newsletter.html)) and Universe Today ([www.universetoday.com/](http://www.universetoday.com/), sign up on the right-side toolbar).
- If you don't already belong to an astronomy club, join one! You can find a club near you on *Sky & Telescope* magazine's website ([SkyandTelescope.com/community/organizations](http://SkyandTelescope.com/community/organizations)).
- If your astronomy club isn't part of the Night Sky Network ("Astronomy Clubs Bringing the Wonders of Astronomy to the Public"), join up at [nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov).
- Use IYA2009 logos on your personal and/or club website(s) as an "IYA Supporter"; U.S. logos are available at [www.astronomy2009.us/newscenter/logo-graphics](http://www.astronomy2009.us/newscenter/logo-graphics), and international logos are available at [www.astronomy2009.org/resources/](http://www.astronomy2009.org/resources/).

### Host star parties and sidewalk astronomy events:

- Hold star parties and/or sidewalk astronomy IYA2009 events on these dates:
  - October 22-24, Galilean Nights ([www.galileannights.org](http://www.galileannights.org))
  - December 31, Once in a Blue Moon - IYA2009 Closing EventsSee [www.astronomy2009.us/howtohost/](http://www.astronomy2009.us/howtohost/) to "Pick a Date" for other events.
- If possible, plan monthly IYA events with viewing of NASA's featured celestial targets ([astronomy2009.nasa.gov/news.htm](http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/news.htm)), together with monthly IYA Discovery guides and activities ([www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html)).
- Activities about the Moons of Jupiter and the Phases of Venus, which Galileo studied, are at [www.astrosociety.org/education/slooh/teachers.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/education/slooh/teachers.html).
- The "How to Host an IYA Event" web page has ideas and resources, such as templates to make a 2-fold brochure and press release ([www.astronomy2009.us/howtohost/](http://www.astronomy2009.us/howtohost/)).

# International Year of Astronomy 2009

## How Amateur Astronomers Can Get Involved in IYA, cont.

### Citizen science programs:

- Support 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))
- Participate in citizen-science programs such as the Epsilon Aurigae observing campaign ([www.citizensky.org](http://www.citizensky.org)) and help variable-star researchers study and understand what's going on with this very unusual eclipsing binary system.
- Classify galaxies and astronomical objects for Galaxy Zoo ([www.galaxyzoo.org](http://www.galaxyzoo.org)).
- Join NASA's Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) Observation Campaign ([lcross.arc.nasa.gov/education.htm](http://lcross.arc.nasa.gov/education.htm), [groups.google.com/group/lcross\\_observation](http://groups.google.com/group/lcross_observation)).
- Contact your local NASA center, college/university, public observatory, planetarium, and/or museum of science/natural history and offer to collaborate on IYA2009 events.
- Give a talk about IYA2009 events and activities. You can download several appropriate *PowerPoint* presentations at [www.astronomy2009.org/resources/presentations/](http://www.astronomy2009.org/resources/presentations/). You can augment your presentations with the IYA2009 movie trailers mentioned above.

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

- Print out or install a "From Earth to the Universe" ([www.fromearthtotheuniverse.org](http://www.fromearthtotheuniverse.org)) image exhibition at your local science center, library, or park -- or in a hallway at work or school.
- Purchase IYA2009 Galileoscopes ([www.galileoscope.org](http://www.galileoscope.org)) and give kids the opportunity to build a simple telescope similar to Galileo's and to look at some of the same objects as Galileo did: mountains and craters on the Moon, the phases of Venus, the four biggest moons of Jupiter, the stars of the Pleiades cluster, and the rings of Saturn.
- You can find IYA2009 logos on shirts, mugs, stickers and other items at these online stores. Proceeds will support IYA2009 educational programs!  
[www.cafepress.com/astronomy2009](http://www.cafepress.com/astronomy2009) store for the main IYA2009 international logos  
[www.zazzle.com/aasiya](http://www.zazzle.com/aasiya) store for U.S. IYA2009 logos

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