

# Ideas for IYA and Galileo-themed Events

Look at the same objects as Galileo did, or create your own theme for a series of star parties, classroom visits, or other IYA events. As a starting point, please refer to the IYA monthly observing calendar and IYA Discovery Guides to plan objects to observe with accompanying educational themes and activities.

monthly IYA Discovery Guides	<a href="http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html">www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html</a>
monthly themes and observing calendar	<a href="http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/news.htm">astronomy2009.nasa.gov/news.htm</a>
U.S. IYA website	<a href="http://astronomy2009.us">astronomy2009.us</a>
How to Host an IYA Event	<a href="http://astronomy2009.us/howtohost/">astronomy2009.us/howtohost/</a>

Astronomy clubs are invited to join the **Night Sky Network** and get free training and educational resources for hosting IYA-related events. Join up at: [nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov)

## Galileo studied:

- ☆ the phases of Venus, featured IYA object for January 2009
- ☆ craters on the Moon, featured IYA object for February 2009
- ☆ Saturn and its rings, featured IYA object for March 2009
- ☆ the Sun and sunspots, featured IYA object for May 2009
- ☆ star clusters, Hercules M13 globular star cluster, featured IYA objects for June 2009
- ☆ Jupiter and its moons, featured IYA object for September 2009

More information about these objects and how to observe them is in the monthly IYA Discovery Guides at: [www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html)

## Additional resources for teaching and hosting more in-depth IYA events:

- ☆ Classroom activities about the Moons of Jupiter and the Phases of Venus are at: [www.astrosociety.org/education/slooh/teachers.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/education/slooh/teachers.html)
- ☆ Galileoscope - Build a simple telescope, similar to Galileo's: [www.astronomy2009.us/optics/galileoscope/](http://www.astronomy2009.us/optics/galileoscope/)
- ☆ IYA logos are on shirts, mugs, stickers and other items at these online stores. Proceeds will support IYA2009 educational programs!  
store for the main IYA international logos: [www.cafepress.com/astronomy2009](http://www.cafepress.com/astronomy2009)  
store for U.S. IYA logos: [www.zazzle.com/aasiya](http://www.zazzle.com/aasiya)

## Best dates to show the moon to the public:

The Moon is the most popular object for the public to view through a small telescope, and the Moon figured prominently in Galileo's work. The ideal time to hold monthly sidewalk-astronomy viewing is on evenings near first-quarter Moon. We also encourage daytime astronomy events, such as at schools. The moon is best observed during the daytime near last quarter. Lunar phases and dates are listed at:

[aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/MoonPhase.php#y2009](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/MoonPhase.php#y2009).

The IYA Discovery Guides feature lunar activities in February and solar ones in May, see: [www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html](http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html).

This short video explains why first-quarter moon is a great time for evening viewing, and why the full moon is actually the worst time to see crater details:

[www.aspsky.org/ftp/samplers/ss-craters-sampler.mov](http://www.aspsky.org/ftp/samplers/ss-craters-sampler.mov)

**International Space Station** viewing dates and times: [www.jsc.nasa.gov/sightings](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/sightings)

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