

ABOUT the IAU Outreach Initiatives

What are the IAU outreach initiatives?

The IAU outreach initiatives are IAU-driven outreach programmes that engage the public in astronomy through access to astronomical information and the communication of the science of astronomy. These programmes encourage astronomical outreach through IAU-members engagement with the public, relationships between professional-amateur, and citizen science activities. These initiatives strive to include everyone of different backgrounds and abilities to participate and learn about the science of astronomy.

Who can join the IAU outreach initiatives?

Anyone can join the IAU outreach initiatives. The vision of the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO) is to bring astronomy to all. The OAO welcomes collaborations with astronomy enthusiasts who share the same goals of creating a diverse and inclusive community.



"The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is the largest international organisation of professional astronomers. The mission of the IAU is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects (research, communication, education and development) through international cooperation."

Who runs the IAU outreach initiatives?

Since 2012, the IAU outreach initiatives have been centrally coordinated by the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO). The OAO is a joint project of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), under the auspices of the National Institutes of Natural Sciences (NINS) of Japan. The OAO is based in Tokyo, on the NAOJ Mitaka Campus. The OAO team coordinates a comprehensive programme of outreach initiatives to reach targeted audiences worldwide. These initiatives are disseminated and implemented at a national level with the IAU National Outreach Coordinators to ensure maximum reach.

Join Us

If you are an amateur astronomer...

We offer a number of programmes to connect amateur astronomy groups with professional astronomers (e.g. Meet the IAU Astronomers!) and resources to enhance outreach you may do with community groups (e.g. Telescopes for All). We encourage you to plan events around our IAU Outreach Global Projects, so your community members can be a part of a global event. You can also contact your IAU National Outreach Coordinator (NOC) for further support in your country.

If you are a professional astronomer...

You can contact your IAU National Outreach Coordinator (NOC) for advice or to share new ideas to further promote astronomy in your region. You can, for example, work with your local NOC to organise citizen science activities under any of the IAU Outreach Global Projects for your local community.

If you are an outreach professional...

You can find various initiatives under the different IAU Outreach Global Projects and get assistance with relevant and exciting topics for you and your community.

If you want to share your activities...

You can register your event in our IAU Outreach Event Calendar.

If you have a new idea...

You can contact the IAU National Outreach Coordinator (NOC) for your country and propose your ideas for outreach initiatives in your country or region.

IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach Outreach Partners

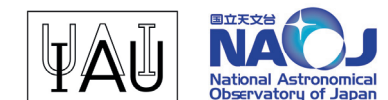


Contact

If you have any further questions, comments or ideas, reach out to the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach team at:

- <https://www.iau.org/public/>
- [/iau_outreach](https://twitter.com/iau_outreach)
- public@oao.iau.org
- [/IAUoutreach](https://www.facebook.com/IAUoutreach)

IAU Outreach Initiatives 2021



Ongoing Programmes



IAU Outreach Visitors

The IAU Outreach Visitors Program provides researchers, communicators and astronomy enthusiasts with an opportunity to engage in work supporting the OAO. Visitors can enhance their skills and professional experience through a number of opportunities, including managing projects, writing on scientific topics and providing research support for OAO programmes. Prospective visitors are also welcome to pitch their own innovative ideas on astronomy outreach for the programme.

Inspiring Stars

This project asks organisers to implement inclusive outreach practices into their work so more people can engage with astronomy. In partnership with the IAU working group on Astronomy for Equity and Inclusion, we provide know-how and a network of support for those who wish to become more inclusive in their outreach events and programmes.

Meet the IAU Astronomers!

Teachers, amateur astronomers and informal educators can bring an IAU member astronomer into a virtual meet-up to talk to students, parents and the general public about astronomy, the importance of astronomy for society, and choosing astronomy as a career.

Astronomy Translation Network

The Astronomy Translation Network (ATN) is the first global network connecting translation needs of outreach practitioners with volunteers. The results have been a plethora of high-quality, scientifically-correct astronomy education and outreach resources in different languages. Since its establishment in 2017, the programme has translated over 100 astronomy education resources and activities and has nearly 400 volunteers across 31 languages.



IAU Outreach Global Projects

The IAU Outreach Global Projects are annual international outreach activities officially endorsed by the IAU. These activities are generally celebrated around particular events and can be implemented by independent organisers internationally that wish to join the IAU outreach initiatives.

Women and Girls in Astronomy

This project focuses on women and girls in astronomy by supporting events that recognise the role of women in advancing science and encouraging girls to consider careers in astronomy.

The IAU strongly encourages activities throughout the year, with particular focus between two International Days adopted by the United Nations: the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11 and International Women's Day on March 8.



Dark and Quiet Skies Awareness

This project raises awareness about the preservation of dark and quiet skies. The effort encourages activities worldwide around the UNESCO International Day of Light May 16 and participation in Globe at Night, an international citizen-science campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of light pollution.



Telescopes for All

This project distributes telescopes signed by astronauts and scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, to underserved communities around the world in partnership with Sterren Schitteren Voor Iedereen (SSVI, Stars Shine for Everyone). We encourage applications that broaden the horizons of children, adults and outreach professionals, sparking an interest in science and raising awareness for equal opportunities in pursuing careers in astronomy.

100 Hours of Astronomy

This project invites anyone to take part in 100 hours packed full of astronomy-related events around the world on 1-4 October. 100 Hours of Astronomy will take place over four days and nights, with amateur and professional astronomers, astronomy enthusiasts and the general public sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the Universe. The goal is to enable as many people as possible, especially children, engage with the sky and gain a basic understanding of the Universe.

