



Christina M. Vitale
Cub Reporter of the Year
Bear Essential News for Kids

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ASTRONOMY CAMP

How would you like to build and launch your own rocket? Or take pictures of faraway stars and planets? If you do, the U of A Astronomy Camp is just for you.

Astronomy Camp was started in 1988 for students 12-19 years old. Many organizations are involved in the Astronomy Camp including the U of A, Kitt Peak National Observatory, Planetary Sciences Department, Pima College, and the Smithsonian Institute. The U of A Alumni Association administers the Camp. Astronomy Camp offers students interested in math, science, or astronomy "hands-on" science experiences not available anywhere else in the country. Campers come from all over.

U of A Steward Observatory astronomer Donald W. McCarthy, Jr. is the director and camp planner. Camp counselors are graduate students.

Astronomy Camp has two sessions, each a week long. For the beginning camp, students are housed in U of A residence halls for three nights, and in dormitories on Mt. Lemmon for four. The advanced campers spend the entire week on Mt. Lemmon.

Students are offered a variety of activities, including lectures, demonstrations, physics experiments and projects (rocket launching, Newton's car), astronomical photography (a camera attached to a telescope), and navigation by the sun

and stars (using the sextant). A special visit to the Mirror Lab under the U of A football stadium (where the world's largest hollow telescope mirror is being built), and various community field trips highlight the beginning campers' stay.

Campers have exclusive use of the 40" and 60" telescopes on Mt. Lemmon. They also get to use the Schmidt telescope on Mt. Bigalowe. Beginning students also have a full day visit to Kitt Peak in which the campers experience the solar telescope, the radio telescope, and the gigantic four meter telescope located there.

During the Advanced Camp, students travel to Mt. Hopkins to view the famous Multiple Mirror Telescope, operated by the Smithsonian Institute.

Several outstanding scientists are invited as guest lecturers and speakers. Hikes around the Mt. Lemmon area help introduce basic concepts of ecology and geology.

Camp ends with a mini graduation ceremony at the Flandrau Planetarium. The Beginning Camp is June 5-12, 1992, and the Advanced Camp is June 19-26, 1992. If interested, call Lisa Roubal at 621-5233.

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