

Sharing the Universe: Outreach Training Videos

Tips for



Produced by the
Astronomical Society of the Pacific
<http://www.astrosociety.org>

All *Sharing the Universe* Videos can be found at:
<http://www.astrosociety.org/SharingTheUniverse>



Visit the *NASA Night Sky Network* for Astronomy Activities
<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-search.cfm>



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Tips for Getting Started with Outreach

The Main Ideas:

- Many amateur astronomers find doing astronomy public outreach to be one of the most rewarding ways they can spend their volunteer time.
- You can get started doing outreach just by attending one of your club's events to see what goes on

What is outreach?

- Anytime you share some aspect of astronomy or observing the sky with friends, families, students, or the general public, you are doing astronomy outreach.

Simple ways to get started with Outreach if you don't belong to a club

1. Join a club. Visit the [Night Sky Network](#) to find the club nearest you
2. Start a club. If there aren't many clubs near you, you can always start one
3. Set up a telescope or binoculars in front of your house on Halloween, 4th of July, or other occasions when neighbors might be outside.
4. Offer to give a short demonstration or talk at the elementary school, middle school, or high school that your child/grandchild/niece/nephew goes to.
5. Offer to do presentations or volunteer at libraries and local science/nature centers.

Easy Ways to Get Involved at your Club's Public Astronomy Events

1. Greet/direct visitors – where are the bathrooms? Where can they park? Etc.
2. Hand out star maps
3. Help direct visitors
4. Set up a telescope
5. Set up a pair of binoculars
6. Do a twilight activity before it is dark enough for people to use the telescopes
7. Display an astronomy poster
8. Point out constellations
9. Take photos of your club's events
10. Find the longest telescope line and talk with the people standing in it
11. Answer questions about your club to people who are interested in joining
12. Show your collection of astrophotos or spacecraft models

Final Notes:

- Explore ideas for activities to do or topics to discuss:
 - The [Night Sky Network](#) offers a variety of resources tailored for amateur astronomy outreach. Some great ones to get started with can be found under the Astronomy Activities section of this video's webpage