

# Share the Universe with Youth

through Skynet Junior Scholars

## FOR 4-H LEADERS and INFORMAL EDUCATORS

Would you like to participate? Neither a science or astronomy background is required. We'll provide all the training you need to guide your young astronomers through SJS activities. We will also provide ongoing online support to you and your Skynet Junior Scholars! Select an in-person or online workshop option. The time commitment is the same:

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

- Yerkes Observatory  
Williams Bay, Wisconsin  
March 17-20, 2016
- National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
Green Bank, West Virginia  
April 7-10, 2016

COST: free! Travel funding plus all room and board are included for in-person training. Hands-on materials are provided.

For more details and registration information go to:  
<http://www.gb.nrao.edu/sjsworkshop/>

## WOULD YOUR YOUTH LIKE TO OBSERVE THE UNIVERSE WITH REAL RESEARCH TELESCOPES?

We thought so! So, a group of dedicated scientists and astronomy educators created Skynet Junior Scholars. With a simple internet connection, young people can conduct all kinds of astronomy investigations with world-class telescopes in the US, Chile AND Australia. Suitable for middle school and older youth in 4-H clubs, afterschool and museum programs, Skynet Junior Scholars (SJS) offers:

- Access to Skynet Robotic Telescopes;
- Explorations: a series of inquiry-based STEM activities that engage young people in a variety of astronomy topics;
- Online web-portal allows youth to create an image gallery, share data with other young scientists, publish their results;
- Communication with astronomers, engineers, software developers and SJS staff;
- An opportunity for youth to advance, and assist astronomers with their projects.



Youth in your out-of-school-time programs may participate in SJS after you complete the SJS professional development workshop. In addition to your time and talent, participation in the project requires:

- 1) Your willingness to guide 5-10 youth through an SJS Exploration by August, 2016. Youth participants need access to reliable internet for the telescope activities, which can be pursued on their own. But we will rely on you to hold group discussions, and conduct activities in an out-of-school or club setting.
- 2) Availability and willingness

to provide on-going feedback to staff and researchers in the project.



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THE NATIONAL SCIENCE  
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THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

# Skynet Junior Scholars Leader Workshops

Yerkes Observatory: March 17-20, 2016. NRAO: April 7-10, 2016.

Skynet Junior Scholars workshops are designed for informal educators and youth leaders who hold out-of-school-time programs for middle school and high school youth. These workshops will give you practice in operating world-class telescopes, build your confidence in leading astronomy activities, and give you the tools to guide your youth through an exploration of our Universe. Each participant will receive a free toolkit of materials for hands-on astronomy activities.

The workshops are led by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP), the University of Chicago Yerkes Observatory and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

## What You'll Learn

- Background on the fascinating questions explored by Skynet Astronomers using Skynet telescopes.
- How to conduct your own observations with Skynet telescopes.
- Hands-on activities to promote understanding of astronomy concepts.

## How You'll Learn

Along with 25 -30 other youth leaders and informal educators you'll experience the following:

- Observe the Universe with Skynet telescopes.
- Review brief reading materials and online videos.
- Try out hands-on activities at your place of work or with your club using materials from the free Skynet Junior Scholars toolkit.
- Participate in discussions in an online forum.
- Meet online for discussions/chats with your fellow participants and the Skynet Junior Scholar team.
- Ask Skynet astronomers questions.
- Create an implementation plan for engaging youth in the SJS program.

## Required Time Commitment

The time commitment is about 18-20 hours (3 hours per week for six weeks in the online workshop; 2 full days in the onsite workshop). In the online workshop, you can work at your own pace, though you should plan to log into the online forum a few times each week. The only "live" scheduled events are the weekly video chats, at a time to be determined, based on what works for the most participants.

The support doesn't end when the workshop is completed. Following the workshop, we'll provide you with even more

opportunities for learning and discussion with each other and the Skynet Junior Scholar staff. You'll continue to interact with these colleagues, as well as astronomers and other experts .

## What You'll Need

- A completed application (including the required Commitment Form).
- The ability to try new astronomy programming with your youth group or at your institution.
- A reliable Internet connection and computer speakers or headphones so you can participate in live video chats.
- 20 hours of time .

## Eligibility

To participate in a Skynet Junior Scholars workshop, you must lead a U.S. based out-of-school time program, work or volunteer for a U.S. informal education facility or be a leader of a youth group or club in the U.S. You should agree to guide 5-10 youth through an SJS Exploration by **August 31, 2016**.

4-H Leaders are especially encouraged to apply. Past participants of AFGU workshops are also welcome to apply. Multiple applications from the same institution are welcome.

## Application

We can only accept online applications. You can access the survey on our workshop website at [www.gb.nrao.edu/sjsworkshop](http://www.gb.nrao.edu/sjsworkshop). In addition, we require a signed Commitment Form which you can mail, fax or scan and email to us. If you work or volunteer at a school or informal science venue, have a supervisor or director sign and return the Commitment Form.

All materials for the in-person workshops are due by **March 1, 2016**

**Questions? Contact [astrosjs.staff@gmail.com](mailto:astrosjs.staff@gmail.com)**