

NORTH SHORE AMATEUR ASTRONOMY CLUB

2010 YOUNG ASTRONOMER TELESCOPE AWARDS PROGRAM

Dear Principals and Science Teachers,

This is the 5th year of the North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club's (NSAAC) annual "Young Astronomer Program" which awards telescopes to students. The purpose of the program is to promote science education and interest in astronomy. Our goal is to award telescopes and binoculars to kids in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore area who have an interest in astronomy. This year we will be awarding easy to use 6-inch reflecting Dobsonian mount telescopes and binoculars to the recipients of the awards. Applicants that have been nominated by their teachers, or by NSAAC members, and have written and submitted an essay about their interest in astronomy will be eligible.

Along with the telescope, each winning student receives a one-year family membership in NSAAC entitling that student and his or her entire family to attend meetings and join us at our dark sky sites. Winning students will be able to get help with and learn about their telescopes at NSAAC meetings. The club also sponsors two Youth Nights per month in which young astronomers at our observing site receive dedicated help. Students under the age of 16 must attend meetings and events with a parent or guardian.

Area students from the fourth through eighth grades are eligible to enter the contest. **All contest entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 27, 2010.**

CONTEST RULES

- 1. Teachers:** Select and nominate students who have demonstrated a genuine interest in science and astronomy. Consider whether or not the student will have parent or guardian support to participate in astronomy events. Please photocopy and send home with each nominated student a copy of the Young Astronomer Parents/Guardian Information Sheet so parents will know about the contest and the program. You will also need to photocopy one nomination form for each student you nominate. Please read the Young Astronomer Parents/Guardian Information Sheet as it contains more detailed student information. Also see items 3 and 4 below.
- 2. Students:** Write an essay, up to 150 words, that describes their interest in astronomy and how having their own telescope will support that interest. Here are some questions for students to consider when writing their essay. When did you become interested in astronomy? What have you done to learn about astronomy? Where would you use a telescope if you win one? Are other members of your family interested in astronomy? Have you ever looked through a telescope? Describe any astronomy projects you have completed. Describe what you learned or experienced at the Merrimack College Mendal Observatory. The essay is to be in your own words. It may be handwritten or typed.
- 3. Teachers:** For each nominated student complete the Nomination Form on page 3. Make a separate copy for each nominated student. Carefully read each student's essay. That will assist you in writing your supporting statement. Please add your supporting statement and explain why you are nominating the

student. It is very important that each student essay has its own teacher's supporting statement. The teacher's supporting statement is considered as well as the student's essay. Essays without a teacher's supporting statement will not be judged. Use a separate piece of paper for each student's supporting statement. The more information about the student, the better. Be specific about how a telescope may inspire the student's interest in astronomy.

- 4. Teacher:** For each nominated student send:
- a. NSAAC YAP Nomination Form.
 - b. Student's signed entry essay.
 - c. Teacher's supporting statement.
 - d. A self-addressed (with student's address), stamped business envelope.
(This envelope will be used to return information to the nominated student after the judging.)

Send To:

**North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club
c/o Veasey Memorial Park
201 Washington Street
Groveland, MA 01834**

We will contact the winning students and teachers on or after **Saturday, April 10, 2010**. The telescopes will be presented to the contest winners on **Saturday, April 24, 2010** at Veasey Memorial Park in Groveland, MA.

Questions? Call the Young Astronomer Coordinator: Kevin Ackert 978-663-5305

Sincerely,



Kevin F, Ackert
2010 Young Astronomer Program Coordinator

NSAAC Young Astronomer Program Nomination Form 2009

Teachers, please complete:

Student's Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Email Address (If available) _____

Grade _____ Age _____

Parents/Guardians first and last names: _____

School _____

Teacher _____ Principal _____

Teacher's Telephone(s) _____

Please staple all parts together securely in this order for each student:

- 1. Nomination Form**
- 2. Student's Signed Essay**
- 3. Teacher's Supporting Statement**
- 4. Student's self-addressed stamped business envelope**

Teacher's Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL TO: **North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club**
c/o Veasey Memorial Park
201 Washington Street
Groveland, MA 01834

If you have questions, call Young Astronomer Coordinator Kevin Ackert 978-663-5305.
Nominations must be postmarked no later than **March 27, 2010**.

Judging will be held on **April 10, 2010**. Winning students and their teachers will be notified at home on or shortly after that date.

North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club Young Astronomer Parent/Guardian Information Sheet

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This is the 5th year of the North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club (NSAAC) annual “**Young Astronomer Program**” which awards telescopes to students with an interest in astronomy. The purpose of the program is to promote science education and to kindle their interest in astronomy.

We acquire new 6-inch Newtonian Reflecting Telescopes and present them to students who are the winners in our Young Astronomer Program. These are good quality entry level telescopes. The optical tube is 6.5” in diameter and 46” long and mounts on an easy to use Dobsonian mount. Total weight is 34.4 lbs. Along with the telescope, each winning student also receives a one-year family membership in NSAAC.

Contest Rules

1. Teachers or NSAAC members will nominate students. Nominated students write an essay, up to 150 words, that describes their interest in astronomy and how having a telescope supports that interest. Here are some questions for students to consider when writing their essay. When did you become interested in astronomy? Where would you use a telescope if you win one? Are other members of your family interested in astronomy? What interests you most about astronomy? What have you done to learn about astronomy? Some suggested topics are galaxies, planets, comets, constellations, moon phases, light years and meteors. The essay may be hand written or typed and must be in the student’s own words. Essays must be postmarked no later than **Saturday, March 27, 2010. The students must deliver their essay to their teacher for mailing well in advance of March 27, 2010.**
4. Teachers must complete a Nomination Form for each student and add their supporting statement. The teacher’s supporting statement is considered as well as the student’s essay. Entries without teacher’s supporting statement will not be judged.
5. Students must supply teacher with a self-addressed (with student’s address), stamped business envelope. This will be used to return information to you after the judging.
6. Teachers must send the Nomination Form, the student’s signed essay, the teacher’s supporting statement and the self-addressed, stamped business envelope to:

**North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club
c/o Veasey Memorial Park
201 Washington Street
Groveland, MA 01834**

Area students from the fourth through eighth grade are eligible. We judge the entries on the student’s enthusiasm and interest in astronomy. The winners will be notified at home on or shortly after Saturday, April 10, 2010. This year’s telescopes will be presented to the contest winners on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Veasey Memorial Park in Groveland, MA. If you have any questions, call the Young Astronomer Program coordinator, Kevin Ackert, at 978-663-5305.