



Dudley Observatory's

# Rising Star Internship

## 2020 Student Application

Are you fascinated by astronomy? Would you like to learn how to find planets, stars and galaxies in the night sky and discover the science behind them? Would you like to share your passion for astronomy with others? If you answered yes to these questions, then the Dudley Observatory Rising Star Internship is for you!

The Dudley Observatory is looking for **student interns** in grades 6-10. We will teach you how to navigate the night sky, how to operate a telescope, and some of the science related to the stars, nebulae and galaxies you can observe from your own backyard. Upon fulfilling the program requirements, you will be awarded a telescope to keep, so that you have the equipment, knowledge and experience to host your own star party with family, friends and the public.

### Program description:

The Rising Star internship is an opportunity for students and teachers to learn about the night sky and share their knowledge with others through star parties and astronomy events. The internship is open to students currently in 6th through 10th grade, and teachers in grades K-12. **Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 6th.** Winners of the internships will be announced in mid-April.

The internship will begin in **August 2020**, and continue through **April 2021**. Interns will be required to attend a classroom and outdoor observing training session once per month (usually on a week night). Each intern will be provided with a telescope to use for the duration of the internship.

Interns will also have the opportunity to attend star parties with the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers and Dudley Observatory events such as Octagon Barn Star Parties. During these events, interns will learn to locate interesting objects in the sky and how to introduce others to the pleasures of star gazing. Interns will be required to attend at least five different events to practice their observing, and will keep a log book detailing his or her progress at these activities throughout the duration of the program.

The internship program will conclude in April with a reception and public star party, hosted by the Rising Star interns. Upon successful completion of the entire program, the intern will be given the telescope to keep. Interns are encouraged to continue to host star parties and astronomy events at their school or local park, or come back to volunteer at Dudley Observatory events.

A tentative schedule and detailed requirements of the program will be provided to new interns once the selection process is complete. Since programs are held at night, a commitment is also required of the intern's parents to assure the safe transportation of the intern to and from classes and events throughout the program. The 2020 Rising Star Internship is contingent on fundraising and may be cancelled due to lack of funding.

**To apply for the Rising Star internship, please fill out the following application.**

# Dudley Observatory Rising Star Internship Application

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address of School \_\_\_\_\_

If you already have a telescope, please describe it. (style, mirror diameter, etc...)

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I have read the program description and I would be willing to have my child participate in this program. I understand that I will be responsible for transportation to and from classes and events.

Parent's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## **Essay:**

Please write a 500 word essay describing your interest in astronomy, what you hope to gain from this experience, and what impact it will have on your community.

## **Teacher recommendation:**

Please ask **one** teacher to provide a confidential short letter of recommendation (~250 words). If home-schooled, have an adult who is not the applicant's parent/guardian write a recommendation letter.

Send the **completed form, essay and one teacher recommendation** via email to:  
[info@dudleyobservatory.org](mailto:info@dudleyobservatory.org)

To receive full consideration, all materials must be received by **Friday, March 6th.**

Questions? Contact us at [info@dudleyobservatory.org](mailto:info@dudleyobservatory.org) or 518-782-6885