



RISING STARS INTERNSHIP

2024 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 Dudley at Siena's Rising Stars Internship is for you!

Dudley at Siena 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 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 their community. The internship is open to students currently in 6th through 10th grade, and teachers in grades K-12. **Applications will be accepted until Friday, June 30th.** Successful applicants will be notified in mid-August.

The internship will begin in **September 2024**, and continue through **June 2025**. Participants will be required to attend monthly in person Rising Stars lab sessions (usually the first Tuesday of every month). Each intern will be provided with a telescope to use for the duration of the internship. Between sessions, participants embark on engaging "sky missions" with their telescopes designed to challenge them to seek out and observe various celestial objects, transforming learning into exhilarating exploration.

Interns are also encouraged to attend star parties with the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers or Dudley at Siena during events such as the 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 are asked to attend at least two different events to practice their observing, and will keep a log book detailing their progress at these activities throughout the duration of the program.

The internship program will conclude in June with capstone project presentation hosted by the Rising Stars interns. 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 at Siena events.

A schedule and detailed requirements of the program will be provided to new participants once the selection process is complete. Since programs are held at night, a commitment is also required of the intern's parent/guardian to assure the safe transportation of the intern to and from classes and events throughout the program.

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

All materials must be received by **Friday, June 30th**. Questions? Contact us at info@DudleyObservatory.org



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Name of Applicant _____ Grade for '24/'25 _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

School Name _____

What (if any) experience do you already have in astronomy?

What has been your favorite science experience to date?

What is something unique you would like to share about yourself?

Personal Statement:

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

Teacher/Community Leader Recommendation:

Please ask one teacher or other leader (not parent or guardian) you have worked with to provide a letter of recommendation (~250 words).

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/Guardian's name(s) _____

Signature _____

Email(s): _____ Phone(s): _____

Send the **completed form, personal statement** and **one teacher recommendation in pdf format via email** to: info@dudleyobservatory.org