

School Astronomy Club “AstroESAQ” – Some activities

José Rebuge

Escola Secundária Antero de Quental, Physics and Chemistry, Ponta Delgada, Portugal (joserebuge@yahoo.com.br)

The Astronomy Club “AstroESAQ” that I lead in my school is essentially a Science and Space Project. Students voluntarily joined the club, organize themselves according to their interests around projects.

Brief description: This club is a place where students develop projects/activities related to science in general and astronomy in particular, streamlined by several regional, national and international organizations (Ciência Viva, NUCLIO, Observatório Astronómico de Santana – Açores - OASA, Inspiring Science Education, Open Discovery Space, ESA, NASA).

As main objectives, this club seeks to sensitize students to the importance of science and astronomy in society. With AstroESAQ, the students can: - develop critical and creative thinking; - develop attitudes of persistence, rigor, taste for research, autonomy, cooperation, and respect for others; - Acquire skills and practices for the selection, interpretation, organization and presentation of information; - interpret the advantages of the study of different areas of Astronomy; - estimate the group work, the practice of discipline, the pleasure of learning and of communicating, raising the self-esteem; - Cooperate with others on projects and common tasks.

The club is frequented with students of Primary and Secondary Education, between 12 and 18 years, and have also the cooperation of teachers from different areas and others school staff.

Some examples of the student's work: - The Eratosthenes experiment (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) to determine the perimeter of the Earth (Open Discovery Space project); - participating in various activities such as scientific research of NEOs (Near Earth Objects) of the IASC Project (International Astronomical Search Collaboration); - Organizing solar and night Observations: open to the school community; Participation in: Mission X 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (NASA & ESA project); Cassini Scientist for a day 2015, 2016, 2017 (NASA Project), “Spirulina in School 2015” (ESA project); “AntiTobacco Project 2016 & 2017 (Cidades Sustentáveis – Ciência Viva); “Journey to the center of the Earth” Project (Fundação Cassefaz).