



## **After School Astronomy Clubs: Exploring the universe after hours**

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## **Abstract**

After School Astronomy clubs are unique in focusing on children in the K-12 grades as opposed to the numerous Amateur Astronomy Clubs within the US and abroad whose membership is largely adult focused. Over the last 12 years, we have identified over 140 clubs that were previously running in isolation, provided them with science and education resources and a means to communicate, created an online community of after School Astronomy Clubs, and facilitated the development of new clubs. Over this time, our model for developing and running these clubs has changed as we gained experience with various target populations, educational settings, and external partners and as best practices have emerged regarding engagement, impact, pedagogy, and sustainability. This talk will highlight these experiences and practices and discuss implications for future development of the After School Astronomy Club program.

**<http://afterschoolastronomy.org>**