

Title Cassini Scientist for a Day – Fall 2009 International Program for IYA2009

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Abstract

In celebration of International Year of Astronomy the Cassini Equinox Mission to Saturn will host an international version of our renowned Cassini Scientist for a Day program in fall 2009.

Section 1

Cassini devotes one hour on the spacecraft for an Educational program called Scientist for a Day (SFAD). On this day the spacecraft takes three navigation images. This fall the SFAD images will be taken on Oct. 11, 2009. The three images will be

1. Saturn and Rings with WAC (wide-angle camera)
2. Tethys with NAC (narrow-angle camera)
3. Titan with NAC

Section 2

Students study and discuss which of three given targets to be imaged by the Cassini spacecraft would bring the most science. Students submit a 500 word essay explaining which one of the three possible imaging targets they chose, and explain why. NOTE: The spacecraft will image all three targets -- there will be a winner for each target in each grade group. Essays will be divided into three groups:

- grades 5 to 6 (ages 10-11)
- grades 7 to 8 (ages 12-13)
- grades 9 to 12 (ages 14-17)

All Entries must be submitted by a teacher, parent or guardian.

Section 3

Timeline:

Sept. 2, 2009: contest material go live on Cassini website site (all assets are available for download)

- Oct. 11: Images are taken
- Oct. 11 or 12: Deadline for submission
- WEEK OF Cassini Project Science Group (PSG) late October – an event with Cassini scientists
- Early December : webcast with schools

Section 4

Cassini Mission support: To support the various organizations willing to run Scientist for a Day, the mission will provide:

- a video introduction of the contest and the three targets
- a video for each of the three targets (with three Young Cassini scientists or engineers lobbying for their favorite targets)
- computer-generated simulations of each target
- basic info on each target
- A "pre-event" video (to be ready by the end of July) will summarize the contest and start the international effort.