



My Moon Campaign – A Beacon for Astronomy Education

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Abstract

The My Moon Campaign was launched during World Space Week in 2009 as a joint effort of the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP), one of the Cornerstones of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009), and the World Space Week Association (WSWA), a global celebration of space taking place between 4-10 October every year. In 2009 several important dates are marked including the 400th anniversary of Galileo's observations, 150 years of Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species", and the 40th anniversary of the first Apollo Moon landing. The Moon is the ideal target for this campaign as it presents a perfect link between all these important turning points in science history. In 2010 My Moon Campaign is set to launch again as "One Moon, One Sky" which will build on the success of the first programme in 2009 through the partnership developed with the Astronomers Without Borders initiative "Global Astronomy Month".

1. Introduction

My Moon Campaign is the first joint effort of the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP), one of the Cornerstones of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009), and the World Space Week Association (WSWA), a global celebration of space taking place between 4-10 October every year. In 2009 several important dates were marked including the 400th anniversary of Galileo's observations, 150 years of Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species", and the 40th anniversary of the first

Apollo Moon landing. The Moon was the ideal target for this campaign as it presented a perfect link between all of these important turning points in science history.

Students around the world engaged in the study of several different aspects of the Moon, using whatever means they had available to reach this purpose: naked eye observations, small telescopes, binoculars, astrophotography, robotic telescopes, webcams, image databases, imagination, and creativity. They will then submit a report, present a project, an essay, anything and everything that will make our natural satellite worthy of being called "My Moon" by the student.

During World Space Week a forum was opened which connected classrooms from around the world, giving students the opportunity to interact with astronomers and space scientists. The My Moon Campaign built up to follow IYA2009 Cornerstone project Galilean Nights, where over three nights students, astronomers and enthusiasts shared their knowledge for the Universe by encouraging as many people as possible to look through telescopes. Students will be participating in several initiatives:

- The Great World Wide Star Count, a project which invites everyone to go outside, look skywards after dark, count the stars they see in certain constellations, and report what they see online in a global effort to monitor the ecological effects of light pollution.
- You are Galileo, a project devoted to excite participants in the recreation of Galileo's discoveries.
- An astrophotography campaign.
- And many other very challenging ideas.