

Astronomy Camp Programs for Adults and Youth



Astronomy Camp Student Photos

Nineteen people from 10 states and Canada learned about topics from the solar system to cosmology at the Alumni Association's first Adult Astronomy Camp. Steward Observatory astronomers led students through use of the 40", 60", and 61" telescopes, as well as 8" portable telescopes, for observing and photography.

The session took place on Mount Lemmon in April. It was designed with the flexibility to address the interests of the novice and provide challenging observing opportunities for the serious amateur astronomer.

Two one-week camps for students between the ages of 13 and 18 were held in June. One camp was for "beginners," and one was for "advanced" students (those who had taken both algebra and trigonometry).

Students in the beginners camp spent the first three nights in UA residence halls, and made visits to Kitt Peak Na-

tional Observatory and the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Activities were held in the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium. A favorite was the "Newton's Car" project, in which students are divided into four research teams to design cars that can be propelled down a track made of wooden rollers. This "slingshot on rollers" demonstrates some of the physics of how a rocket works. The students then built rockets and had a rocket launching contest. The final four nights were on Mt. Lemmon, observing through the 16", 40", 60", and 61" Schmidt telescopes and photographing such phenomena as star clusters and planets.

The advanced camp was conducted entirely on Mt. Lemmon and covered more advanced topics in math and computer science.

The students visited the Multiple Mirror Telescope on Mt. Hopkins, and were treated to lectures on such diverse topics

as celestial mechanics (Dance of the Planets), careers in astronomy, space probes, and the distance scale in the universe. Scientists and engineers from the University of Texas, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, the Naval Research Laboratory, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, and the Planetary Science Institute participated.

Donations of supplies and equipment were received from Eastman Kodak, Astronomy Magazine, Sky and Telescope magazine, The Planetary Society, Tucson Office Supply, and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Adult camps are scheduled for September and October, 1990, and for April of 1991. Youth camps are scheduled for June of 1991.

If you are interested call Joan Morrill in the Alumni Office, 1-800-BEAT-ASU, or (602) 621-5233.