



# THE SKY YOURS TO DISCOVER

Most of the constellations we identify in the sky nowadays are based on those listed centuries ago. The project *The Sky – Yours to Discover* invites children and young people to look directly to the sky and identify stars, connect stars with imaginary lines, create new constellations and original stories related to them.

The main goal of the project is to stimulate the curiosity and interest towards astronomy all over the world, but also to invite the public in general to look directly to the skies, to be aware of the night sky, eventually to bring into discussion the question of light pollution, and to invite the participants to use their creativity and imagination, both verbal and visual, in a multidisciplinary and multicultural project.

This project may involve science centers, schools, planetarium's, astronomers, by motivating children of different cultures and different backgrounds to the eye observation of the stars.

*The Sky – Yours to Discover* is a project of the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra, Portugal, for the International Year of Astronomy 2009.

## Associated partners:

See <http://www.museudaciencia.pt/index.php?iAction=Actividades&iArea=5&iId=18>

or <http://www.astronomy2009.org/globalprojects/specialprojects/sky/> for the complete list of Associated Partners.

## Participants

**1.1.** The project is open to teams composed by a teacher (at least) and 5 to 20 Elementary and Middle School students. One of the participants must be indicated as Team Captain. The teams are divided in five categories: 5 - 6 years old; 7 - 8 years old; 9 - 10 years old; 11 - 12 years old; 13 - 14 years old.

**1.2.** The Team Captain must be a responsible adult, for example, professor, tutor, social assistant, etc. Team Captains can have different teams competing.

**1.3.** There is no limit of participants from each school or institution, but the organization of the project invites each institution to make a pre-selection of the best proposals.

## Projects

**2.1.** Each team must compete with two or more star charts. These star charts must be from different months in the year; the goal is for students to understand the changes in the sky throughout the year. In each star chart, each team can create any number of constellations. The stories created by each team need to be related with the proposed constellations and must be original.

**2.2.** The star charts used by the participants can be drawn from observation of their own night sky. It is also possible to use real star patterns at the latitude of the observers. Star charts for the latitude of the associated partners may be found at <http://www.museudaciencia.pt/index.php?iAction=Actividades&iArea=5&iId=18>

**2.3.** Each proposal – drawings and stories - can not exceed five pages. The story must be written in Portuguese or English. In case the native language of the teams involved is a different one, the original version and a translation into English must be included.

**2.4.** To apply, each team should indicate the identification of each member of the team (name, age, school or institution), as well as the name, age and contact (address, e-mail) of the Team Captain.

## Associated partners

- 3.1. Institutions such as Science Museums and Science Centers can participate as co-organizers by publicizing the project, selecting proposals and translating these into English, in countries with a native language different than English or Portuguese.
- 3.2. These institutions may organize national or regional events related with this project, namely a national competition, an exhibition, a publication, etc.
- 3.3. Candidates to Associated Partners may contact the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra by e-mail.
- 3.4. Each associated partner can collect as many works as possible. From all the star charts received, each associated partner needs to create a judging team and select 10 as the best works, in terms of: constellations, stories for those constellations, and overall consistency of the star chart as a whole for the stories incorporated. Those selected 10 best works must be sent to the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra for the worldwide contest with all the best works selected around the world.
- 3.5. Each associated partner judging team must categorize the works depending on the students' age. Thus, the best works will also have different categories for different ages. The five categories are: 5 - 6 years old; 7 - 8 years old; 9 - 10 years old; 11 - 12 years old; 13 - 14 years old. Therefore, two works must be chosen as the best from each category; in the end 10 star charts (constellations and stories) must be selected as the best ones from each associated partner.
- 3.6. The associated partner judging team must evaluate the best works per star chart, and not by team. Each team will turn in two or more star charts. However, the evaluation is done per star chart, separately, and not by the aggregate evaluation of the several star charts per team.

## Deadlines

- 4.1. To participate, each associated partner must register until **March 21, 2009**, by sending an e-mail to the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra.
- 4.2. The proposals can be sent to the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra by e-mail with the reference *The Sky – Yours to Discover*. These proposals must be sent until **June 21, 2009**.
- 4.3. The results of the contest will be presented on **December 21, 2009**.

## Jury

- 5.1. The jury is composed by five elements, indicated by the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra and the organizing committee of the International Year of Astronomy 2009.
- 5.2. The jury will choose the best proposals, which will be published online at the official site of IYA2009.

## Prizes

- 6.1. We suggest that each associated partner should reward their best works with some admissions to the institution, or some symbolic small astronomy prizes. This is only a suggestion and it is up to each associated partner to decide.
- 6.2. Each winner will also be rewarded into entering the worldwide competition.
- 6.3. The worldwide winners will receive a few prizes and the honor to see their works recognized and published in the site for the International Year of Astronomy. Thus, the best proposals will be rewarded and published online.
- 6.4. All participants will receive a Participation Certificate. The Certificates will be downloaded by the Associated Partners or from each Team Captain, from here:  
<http://www.museudaciencia.pt:80/index.php?iAction=Actividades&iArea=5&iId=18>
- 6.5. All the winners will also receive a Winner Certificate.
- 6.6. During 2009, all participants from around the world can visit for free the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and the Museu de Astronomia e Ciências Afins (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

## Contacts:

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