



Important & New Information about Astronomy Day 2010 Version 1

*Be sure to check this page frequently.
It may change often as new information becomes available*

In 2007 we started offering both a spring and a fall date for Astronomy Day. Select one (or both) that fits your schedule

In 2009 we changed the Astronomy Day Award. Make sure you have to 2010 entry form.

1. Be sure to register your Astronomy Day events each year on this web site so others (including the media) can find out where Astronomy Day events are taking place. Go to the [Add update](#) page
2. Enter the Astronomy Day Award and win up to \$150 cash prize in 5 different prize categories. Click [here](#) for new rules, guidelines and the new entry form.

3. Sky Publishing not only has the [Astronomy Day Handbook](#) available for free downloading, they also have the popular [Good Neighbor Outdoor Lighting](#) flyer, a clear, simple info sheet on light pollution and how anyone can minimize it at [http://SkyTonight.com/astronomy day](http://SkyTonight.com/astronomy%20day)

4. The Abrams Sky Calendar available for Astronomy Day activities. Anyone celebrating the event is welcome to distribute any number of copies of the Sky Calendar with no restrictions, other than we ask that material not be deleted. . You can download both pdf's from our Sky Calendar web page at <http://www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/SkyCalendar/Index.html> Scroll down to the bottom of the page. April's evening highlights illustrated on the April 2010 Sky Calendar include:
 - A very favorable evening apparition of Mercury, with our solar system's smallest planet lingering conveniently close to Venus in April's first ten days.
 - Venus becoming more prominent, setting over two hours after sundown by late in the month. For a few evenings around Saturday, April 24, Astronomy Day, the beautiful Pleiades star cluster can be spotted in the same binocular field as Venus.
 - Mars climbing high in the sky; for several days around mid-month, the Beehive star cluster can be spotted in the same binocular field.
 - Saturn ascending into good view in the eastern sky at dusk. A telescope reveals the rings closing to less than 2 degrees from edge-on before month's end.
 - At least during the first two weeks of April, a great view of four naked-eye planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Saturn, spanning the sky from the western horizon into the east. After Mercury departs around mid-April, sky watchers will enjoy following Venus-Mars-Saturn as they gather ever closer together. On April 12, they span 135 degrees across the sky; on April 27, 120 degrees. On August 7, these three planets will fit into a field just 5 degrees across, easily fitting within the view of ordinary binoculars.

5. The Astronomical Society of the Pacific has several programs that Astronomy Day sites could utilize to enhance Astronomy Day activities including:
 - Night Sky Network
 - Family ASTRO
 - Astronomy from the GROUND UPFor information go to www.astrosociety.org

6. To increase PR for you Astronomy Day site, invite a local TV or Radio meteorologist to broadcast from your site giving either the local forecast or the weather forecast from various planets in our Solar System.

7. *Astronomy* magazine offers handout material for your local club's Astronomy Day event. To request an Astronomy Day kit, visit <http://www.astronomy.com/donations> . Bookmark this link! You can use it throughout the year to request materials for other public events.

8. The Joint Astronomy Center in Hawaii has constructed a great interactive web site that allows input of one's birthday and then finds a star that many light years away: <http://outreach.jach.hawaii.edu/birthstars/>. Stars located by this wonderful program may not be bright however but are very customized to individual birthdays. See the FREE Astronomy Day Handbook for more details.

9. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has put together a web site with all kinds of great information including a short 2 minute video about the current night sky that can be played at Astronomy Day events. This would be especially good at daytime events to encourage visitors to come back to any evening observations. The site is: <http://education.jpl.nasa.gov/amateurastronomy/index.html>

10. The Astronomical League has made arrangements for member society to purchase liability insurance at somewhat reasonable prices. If your society is a member of the League, contact the [Executive Secretary](#) to obtain details. Many shopping malls require liability insurance before they will let you do any type of display or program in their mall.