



ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

A FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

- ★ *To promote the science of astronomy;*
- ★ *By fostering astronomical education;*
- ★ *By providing incentives for astronomical observation and research;*
- ★ *By assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.*

ASTRO NOTES

Produced by the Astronomical League

Note 29: Award Programs of the Astronomical League Activity Awards

The Astronomical League sponsors over 30 observing and activity award programs for its members, and others are being developed. The equipment required for the observing programs ranges from the unaided eye to telescopes with solar filters. The objects of study range from the very near solar system to the very deep sky and there are observing programs to challenge both beginner and experienced observers.

The award programs presented on this ASTRONOTE are for activity-based awards. If you would like to further your efforts in the preservation of dark skies or public outreach or earn some recognition for such endeavors, check out the following Activity Awards you can earn. See ASTRONOTES 12 and 28 for the deep sky programs and ASTRONOTE 25 for solar system observing programs.

The Outreach Award

Many society members participate in astronomy outreach projects or events, and this program recognizes those efforts. Outreach Awards will be given for as little as 5 two-hour outreach events. Additionally, intermediate and advanced levels of outreach will also be recognized. A pin and certificate are awarded upon completion of the first level, and certificates are awarded for the intermediate and advanced levels. Get out and help promote astronomy and earn some recognition, too!

The Dark Sky Advocate Award

This award is a great opportunity for you as an individual to make a positive, dramatic impact on your community that will be long lasting and far-reaching. Light pollution and light trespass are two subtle but pervasive problems that degrade our quality of life and destroy our enjoyment of the night sky. Too many amateur astronomers have silently witnessed the unnecessary destruction of the night, first beginning in the cities but now spreading to the remaining rural areas. We must choose not to ignore this problem. To become a Dark Sky Advocate, the candidate must understand the problem of light pollution, know its causes and solutions, and realize how it affects our society in general and amateur astronomy in particular. These objectives are achieved by the completion of various activities; some are observing related, most are not. A certificate and pin are awarded upon completion of the program.

For More Information

More information about these Activity Awards and all the League's Observing Awards can be found on the League website at www.astroleague.org as well as in the *REFLECTOR* or by contacting the Award Chairperson for each award. All of these award programs require that the observer be a member of the Astronomical League, either through an affiliated club or as a member-at-large, or as a patron or lifetime member.

If you have further questions, email or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the appropriate person:

Outreach Award: Mike Ramirez, 11942 Harmony Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32246, (904) 860-1454, E-mail: astro-outreach@att.net

Dark Sky Advocate Award: John Goss, 932 Lee Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090, (540) 966-4606, E-mail: goss.john@gmail.com

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