

Young Astronomer Awards Program

The Rose City Astronomers (RCA) sponsors a **Young Astronomer Awards Program** to further the interest and participation of high school-age students in astronomy-related projects. Financial awards range from \$100 up to \$250 for projects of varying scope and significance. High school students in the Portland, Oregon metro area are encouraged to apply to either the Spring or Fall cycle of the awards program by submitting a project proposal via RCA's online portal. Once the proposal is approved by RCA, students have approximately 60 days to complete and submit their final projects to RCA. Students should consider their talents and interests in astronomy and submit a proposal in any of following categories at <https://rosecityastronomers.wufoo.com/forms/young-astronomers-award-inquiry/>

Project Categories

Young Astronomer Awards Program

Astronomy Research	Astronomy Journalism	Astronomy Arts & Literature	Astronomy Outreach
Gather and analyze data, or use previously published data, to investigate an astronomical event.	Produce journalistic media for print, television, radio and Internet which seeks to inform and advance current information, new ideas or concepts to the public.	Astronomy is a source of inspiration for many, and the wonders of our universe can be expressed through the visual, performing and literary arts.	Astronomy is a naturally inquisitive subject and one readily shared with others. Outreach projects contribute in meaningful ways by interacting with others.
Project Ideas – The only limit is your imagination!			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure brightness of variable stars Estimate probability of asteroid-Earth impacts Detect exoplanet transits Track comets, asteroids or other observable bodies Perform spectroscopy of bright stars Measure seeing and transparency for a specific geographic location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and write a publishable article on recent discoveries, important advances, current challenges or opportunities in astronomy Research and write about key figures and events in astronomical history Explore the capabilities of new ground- and space-based observatories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual art such as drawings, paintings, ceramics, sculpture, photography Performance art like music, theater, video, film Literary art such as poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help host OMSI/RCA Star Parties Educate homeowners on the presence and impact of stray lighting Perform a series of "sidewalk astronomy" Saturdays to share views of the Sun, Moon or Saturn through a telescope Start a school astronomy club
IMPORTANT DATES!!		Spring Award Cycle	Fall Award Cycle
Application Deadline (RCA online portal submission)		April 1	August 1
Project Approval & Start Date		April 15	August 15
Project Completion/Submission Deadline		June 15	October 15

Program Guidelines and Requirements

- Projects are to be identified by the student applicant. School teachers, parents and other adults are encouraged to serve as a mentor to the student as they prepare their proposal and complete their project for the award.
- The RCA online portal provides specific guidance to complete and submit a qualified project proposal with sufficient detail to identify the nature and scope of the intended project.
- Students apply to either the Spring or Fall awards cycle. If student requires additional time to complete an approved project, an extension into the following awards cycle can be requested. Only one extension will be granted by RCA.
- Student applicants MUST receive RCA approval of their submittal proposal to be considered for an award. Students will receive formal notification of approval from RCA within 2 weeks of the application deadline.
- Only new and original, RCA-approved projects will be considered for awards.
- All student applicants must provide the name of one teacher or parent to serve as RCA's point of contact.
- With parental consent, RCA may offer a mentor and/or equipment to complete a student's project. Please note: If personal contact with the student is required for the project, written permission for such interaction must be furnished to RCA.
- RCA will contact student (and mentor) at midpoint of the awards cycle to determine any specific needs or support.
- Awards will be presented in-person to students at the July (Spring cycle) or November (Fall cycle) Rose City Astronomers general meeting.
- The names of students receiving awards and a photograph or examples of their projects will be published in the Rose City Astronomers online newsletter, *The Rosette Gazette*.
- Awards are recommended by a panel of RCA members and approved by the RCA Board. All decisions are final.

Questions?

Please contact the RCA Youth Program Director at youth@rosecityastronomers.org

Who We Are

The Rose City Astronomers is Portland, Oregon's amateur astronomy organization. With over 600 family memberships we are one of the largest amateur astronomy clubs in the country. Our monthly meetings at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI) are open to the public and feature presentations on a variety of astronomical and space-related topics by amateur astronomers and experts in the field of astronomy. We sponsor special interest groups and activities, public viewing events and public outreach and education. Learn more at www.rosecityastronomers.net.