

Cosmic Explorers

@ Henize Observatory, Harper College
grades 3-6 "Tycho"



What is Cosmic Explorers about?

The Cosmic Explorer program gives students the opportunity to view and learn the night sky by working with Henize Observatory volunteer staff and Harper College faculty members. Students will complete a Cosmic Explorer Passport that logs their observations throughout the year. Students will learn to identify stars and constellations, and observe deep sky objects through the observatory telescopes.

What is required of parents?

Since the Cosmic Explorer program occurs during the regular public observing sessions at the Henize Observatory, parents need to bring their students to the observatory for the activities. Since these are public events, parents and siblings are welcome to participate in the observing activities. The public observing schedule is posted on the Henize Observatory site, www.HarperAstronomy.org. To complete the program, students will need to attend 3-4 viewing sessions, as the objects in the Passport are visible at different times of the year.

What does the student get for this?

At the completion of each "season" of viewing, the student will receive a small prize to acknowledge their accomplishment. We are working with NASA to obtain posters and the like for awards. Those who have successfully completed their Passport will attend an awards reception at Harper College at the end of the 2011-2012 program year.

What role might teachers play?

Teachers may promote this activity to students and parents. The school that has the most students enroll in the program (minimum 25) will win a Star Party at their school run by Henize Observatory staff. Teachers are also welcome to attend the viewing sessions with their students and parents.

Contact the observatory manager: joe.kabbes@HarperAstronomy.org for details.