



# ASTRONOMICAL OPPORTUNITIES

FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS  
AND TEACHERS

RIVERSIDE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
rivastro.org

## Outreach:

Our volunteers will come to your school with telescopes and other equipment. During the day, we can show the sun with sunspots and even solar flares. At night we can show the moon, some planets, and perhaps other celestial objects. The events can be scheduled for individual classes or the whole school (for instance at Open House night). The event can include telescope viewing only, or a short lecture program inside before viewing. During the day, it can include other activities (like a model solar system walk). Daytimes may be scheduled any time (but depend on volunteer's work schedule). Night times should be scheduled after sunset when a moon is visible (a few days up to two weeks after a new moon—we can help you schedule it!). The event should be scheduled at least a week in advance. It is free unless you need an insurance waiver, in which case we charge our cost of \$25. To make plans for an Outreach Event, contact Al Fink, outreach@rivastro.org.

## Field Trip to GMARS:

Goat Mountain Astronomical Research Station is five acres of observing area in Landers, about an hour and a half east of Riverside/San Bernardino. We can accommodate about 30 students, parents and chaperones at a time. Our club has a star party there nearly every month on a new moon Friday and Saturday and you would be joining this ongoing star party. On site are dozens of scopes, some of which are open to student use. This can be a one evening expedition or an overnight camping trip. It is recommended that you arrive about two hours before sunset to see the telescopes in daylight (and set up camp if you are staying overnight). You are welcome to join a pot-luck bar-be cue on Saturday or you can bring your own supplies. If staying overnight, you will need camping equipment and very warm clothes. You do not need telescope equipment. The event itself is free, although we appreciate a donation if you are part of the pot luck or staying overnight. And if the group is more than a few students, we ask \$75 to pay for a Porta-potty. To make plans for a Star Party at GMARS, contact Mark Melnyk at starparty@rivastro.org.

## Individual Assistance:

We are available to help with individual student projects, lesson planning, advice for purchasing astronomical equipment, and so forth. Contact alexmconahay@roadrunner.com

## Other RAS events:

You may also encourage your students (or yourself!) to visit other events, especially our monthly lecture/meetings at La Sierra University or the Sidewalk Astronomy and public outreaches at local shopping malls, parks, and so forth. These events are free, and visitors are encouraged. These events make great "extra-credit" assignments. For a complete calendar of events, visit rivastro.org.

## RTMC Astronomy Expo

The RTMC Astronomy Expo was started forty years ago to share telescope making and observing among hobbyists. Since then it has grown into the largest star party in the United States, and perhaps the world. It is held every Memorial Day weekend in Big Bear, California. They go out of their way to include youth groups in the activities. There are lectures and workshops, some designed for beginners, and many other activities. If you would like to bring students to this program, contact Glenn Malcolm, gmalcolm@charter.net or 951 360 1030. Some camperships are available. If you would like more information about RTMC Astronomy Expo, see rtmc astronomyexpo.org

## Astronomy Clubs and Contacts:

Riverside Astronomical Society (Riverside and San Bernardino counties) rivastro.org  
Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers (Eastern Los Angeles/ western San Bernardino counties) pvaa.us  
San Bernardino Valley Amateur Astronomers (San Bernardino county) sbvaa.org  
Astronomical Society of the Desert (Coachella Valley) astrorx.org  
High Desert Astronomical Society (Victorville, and surrounding) 760 245 8020  
Andromeda Society (Morongo Valley) andromedasociety.org