

Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WCBVI)
Short Course presents...

IDATA WEEK

Innovators Developing Accessible Tools for Astronomy

Sunday, October 15, 2017 — Friday, October 20, 2017
Accessible Astronomy

This program will provide students the opportunity to...

- ◆ Learn about teamwork and make social connections
- ◆ Get hands-on learning experiences with other STEM students
- ◆ Learn about all-new user-centered data analysis software that makes astronomy come alive!
- ◆ Experiment with robotics, design and fabricate objects using 3D printers and laser cutters in the WSBVI & Yerkes Fabrication Labs
- ◆ Have a STAR PARTY at Yerkes Observatory!
- ◆ Work on stations for the "Magic of Astronomy" presentation on the final day (Parents invited!), to be held at Yerkes

For: Wisconsin students in grades 6-12, who are blind or visually impaired and receiving IEP-based vision services

Where:

- ◆ WCBVI campus, 1700 W. State Street, Janesville
- ◆ Yerkes Observatory, 373 W Geneva St, Williams Bay
- ◆ Inspiration Ministries (Thursday evening & overnight), N2270 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184

Arrival Time: Sunday, October 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m. at WCBVI

Departure Time: Friday, October 20, 2017, 9:00 p.m. from Yerkes

Instructor: Karly Weaver, Tim Fahlberg, Tina Mekeel, and Kathy Arndt in cooperation with the Yerkes Observatory Educational Outreach Team

Cost: FREE

Details:

- ◆ Students are responsible for transportation to and from the WCBVI
- ◆ Overnight accommodations at the WCBVI including bedding and towels, will be provided
- ◆ All meals will be provided
- ◆ Students are encouraged to bring a small amount of spending money.
- ◆ Adult supervision 24 hours/day & nursing staff on site
- ◆ Space is limited.

If interested, please contact Karly Weaver at 608-758-4929/Karly.Weaver@wcbvi.k12.wi.us
or Holly Adams at 608-758-6148/Holly.Adams@WCBVI.k12.wi.us

Registration materials must be received by SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

**Yerkes Observatory and the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired team up for
the 3rd Annual Astronomy Short Course and
Magic of Astronomy Star Party**

The universe is full of magic. All it takes is the mind of a child to bring that magic to life, and that is exactly what this amazing short course experience seeks to do. From flying high on a broom to gazing on the Yerkes Observatory, magic can be found in the most unlikely of places, including science! The Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Yerkes Observatory want to give your students the opportunity of a lifetime over an unforgettable week full of magic and fun!

The week will begin with a trip to the historic 120-year-old Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin on Monday, October 16th, 2017. This first day will include a tour of the observatory, as well as participation in White Cane Day activities and celebrations. Following the events at Yerkes on Monday, students will return to WCBVI for three days of out-of-this-world scientific exploration and fun!

The 2017-2018 theme is *the science of electromagnetism, and how we use computers to analyze real astronomical data*. This year, we are proud to partner with the IDATA project – a three-year, 2.5-million-dollar National Science Foundation grant created to engage young people in the design and development of accessible data analysis software for astronomy.

What does this mean for students? As a part of the short course event, students will have the unique opportunity to participate in activities developed for the IDATA project, including user-centered design, computational thinking, hands-on demonstrations of waves and the electromagnetic spectrum, and more! These activities will be taught by teachers that are part of the IDATA grant, which means that your student gets the best lessons straight from the heart of this amazing project – from those who lead it.

Throughout the week of October 16th-October 20th, students will learn about the basics of astronomy, through user-centered IDATA activities at WCBVI and at Yerkes Observatory. Thursday night is an overnight event, hosted by Yerkes, which will include a fun-filled experience of preparation for the highlight of the week – the Magic of Astronomy event! Students will prepare to run their very own stations at Yerkes Observatory for the star party on Friday, that will cover all the fundamentals of astronomy. They'll get a chance to demonstrate, to parents and the public, what they've learned and how they can show their own, unique, ways to shine.

Prepare to take up your robes, wands, and brooms as we celebrate your student's accomplishments for this one-of-a-kind star party. This magical event includes stations featuring ***astronomical*** amounts of authentic magic and fun, run exclusively by students! Kicking off the party with a friendly game of Quiddich, the night will be full of exciting activities, demonstrations, and more!

To learn more about the IDATA project, please visit www.yerkesoutreach.org/idata

To register your student for this five-day short course, click on the interest form link on the event page and submit. If you have any questions, or would like assistance completing the interest form, please call Holly Adams, Program Assistant, at 608-758-6148 or send an email to holly.adams@wcbvi.k12.wi.us.