



The Washington Charter for Communicating Astronomy with the Public

As our world grows ever more complex and the pace of scientific discovery and technological change quickens, the global community of professional astronomers needs to communicate more effectively with the public. Astronomy enriches our culture, nourishes a scientific outlook in society, and addresses important questions about humanity's place in the universe. It contributes to areas of immediate practicality, including industry, medicine, and security, and it introduces young people to quantitative reasoning and attracts them to scientific and technical careers. Sharing what we learn about the universe is an investment in our fellow citizens, our institutions, and our future. Individuals and organizations that conduct astronomical research — especially those receiving public funding for this research — have a responsibility to communicate their results and efforts with the public for the benefit of all.

The _____ endorses the Washington Charter for Communicating Astronomy with the Public. As a Funding Agency we pledge to follow the recommendations to:

- Encourage and support public outreach and communication in projects and grant programs
- Develop infrastructure and linkages to assist with the organization and dissemination of outreach results
- Emphasize the importance of such efforts to project and research managers
- Recognize public outreach and communication plans and efforts through proposal selection criteria and decisions and annual performance awards
- Encourage international collaboration on public outreach and communication activities

Name: _____

Date: _____