



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 Professional Society we pledge to follow the recommendations to:

- Endorse standards for public outreach and communication
- Assemble best practices, formats, and tools to aid effective public outreach and communication
- Promote professional respect and recognition of public outreach and communication
- Make public outreach and communication a visible and integral part of the activities and operations of the respective societies
- Encourage greater linkages with successful ongoing efforts of amateur astronomy groups and others