

Student Application Packet

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE
Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy and Dept. of Physics and Astronomy High School Summer Academy

21st Century Astronomy Ambassadors Program

The Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy (CGWA) and the Physics & Astronomy Department at the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB/TSC) (<http://cgwa.phys.utb.edu/Events/Summer2006/summeracademy2006.php>) is looking for students for its Summer Academy for High School Students during July 10, 2006 to August 02, 2006. The program, with Professor Richard Price as the main adviser, is titled the “21st Century Astronomy Ambassadors Program”.

THE PROGRAM

Twelve motivated high school students will be trained in modern Gravitational Wave, Infrared, Ultraviolet, Gamma Ray, Radio Astronomy, and Data Analysis techniques. Each student will build a 4.5-inch Newtonian reflector telescope that they will be allowed to keep at the end of the program. Daily laboratory investigations will involve the use of astronomy simulation software through which students will learn how to plan “observing runs” to identify objects visible in the local night sky. Nighttime laboratories will allow the students to gain experience with the telescopes and make their planned observations.

These students (deemed “Ambassadors”) will be trained in making scientific presentations and will be asked to commit to making astronomy night presentations to schools and science clubs (arranged by the CGWA members) throughout the following 2006-2007 school year.

Students will also become an integral part of the on-going research at the CGWA, participating in projects which investigate the nature of gravitational waves and pulsars, with the ultimate goals as presenting at a professional conference and publishing in a scientific journal.

SCHEDULE

The students will be engaged in the university enrichment program from Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Nighttime laboratories will also be scheduled. Lunch will be provided for participants. The classes will be held at the College of Science, Math and Technology Building at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College campus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Soma Mukherjee, office phone: 956-882-6679, fax: 956-882-6722,
e-mail: soma@phys.utb.edu or Adrienne Rodriguez-Zermeno, office phone: 956-882-6684, fax: 956-882-6722, e-mail: adrienne.zermeno@utb.edu .

Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy
80 Fort Brown – Room # SETB 2.210
Brownsville, TX. 78520, (956) 882-6778

SPONSORSHIP

No tuition or fees will be charged for participation in the program. All daily meals will be provided without charge to program participants. Each student is expected to provide his/her own transportation to and from the program site. Each student will build a 4.5-inch Newtonian reflector telescope that they will be allowed to keep at the end of the program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. All program applicants must be full-time high school students who have just completed their freshman, sophomore or junior year.
2. Each applicant will need one letter of recommendation from a mathematics or science teacher.
3. Each applicant must submit a transcript of current grades or a copy of grade reports for the school year attended.
4. Each applicant must submit a one-half (1/2) to one (1) page personal statement describing why he or she would like to participate in the Summer Academy.
5. Acceptance to the program is based on the review of the application packet and recommendation letter.

STUDENT APPLICATION PACKET CHECKLIST

A complete application includes:

1. Application Form
2. Student Agreement Form
3. Release and Indemnification Agreement
4. School Transcript **OR** Copy of latest Grade Report
5. Personal Statement

All items for each applicant should be submitted in a single packet. Each packet should be received at the address listed below no later than May 15, 2006. All approved applicants will be notified by May 31, 2006.

University of Texas at Brownsville
Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy
c/o Dr. Soma Mukherjee
80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, TX. 78520
(21st Century Astronomy Ambassador's Program)

In selecting individuals for participation and otherwise in the administration of this project, the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College will not discriminate on the grounds of race, sex, color, age, handicap, religion, veteran status, or national origin of any applicant.
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