

Starry, Starry Night Extravaganza

January 7, 2017

Event Supervisors: Susan Ogden, Stephen Ogden

The scope of this event is on a 2-year rotation of some of the topics. This is Year 2 – Solar System Focus.

- Every year
 - Solar System (Part I)
 - Constellations/star charts (Part II)
- Part III topics will rotate on a two year cycle
 - Year 1 – Deep space focus
 - Year 2 - Solar System objects focus
 - New this year – Space Missions

Test structure (see template on macombso.org)

- **Visual identification** of planets and planetary features will be accomplished through a slide show. Images will be shown for 20 seconds each, then once more quickly, for a few seconds each.
 - *Planets*: Pictures will be taken from <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/> and <http://nineplanets.org/>. From the NASA site, “Gallery” photos of features, as well as the main picture of each planet may be used. See thumbnails of possible “planet features” on Macomb Starry Night pages.
 - *Moons and other solar system bodies*: See list of images on Macomb Starry Night pages.
- **Written questions** will cover all topics listed in this year’s rules. The form will vary among multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and matching. The students will also be asked to draw a couple of simple diagrams of an astronomical concept, such as an eclipse, a moon phase or a season diagram.
- **Star chart identification** of constellations, star clusters and individual stars will be tested using charts from www.heavens-above.com. The maps will be printed with black stars on a white background. No constellation names or lines will be visible. You may generate your own using “Detroit” as the location, or download a set from macombso.org.
- **Tie Breakers** will be extra questions at the end of the test. They could be in any format on any topic within scope. They will only be counted in the event of a tie. They cannot hurt a team’s score.

Other things

- Spelling doesn’t need to be perfect. As long as it’s clear what is intended, the answer will be marked “correct”.
- Students may bring only pencils into the testing room – no notes or charts.
- Students may talk quietly with their partners.
- Students may physically separate the test into sections, so as to “divide and conquer”.
- At practice tournaments, the test won’t be released, but you’ll receive a feedback sheet with your kids’ score on the various topics to help you focus your efforts for the regional tournament.

Information on the Starry Starry Night pages of macombso.org (be sure to look at both pages!)

- List of internet resources, as well as direct links to them
- Test template
- Sample of the district tournament feedback form
- Star charts
- Glossaries
- Powerpoint of selected topics from a past workshop
- Sample test questions/key
- Thumbnails of Planet Features
- Images of Moons, Dwarf Planet, and other solar system bodies

District tournament dates

- March 4 – L’Anse Creuse District Tournament
- March 11 – Chippewa Valley District Tournament
- March 21 – Utica Practice Event (Tuesday)
- March 25 – South Macomb District Tournament