

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you to express my interest in the astronomy camp which will take place from December 26th to January 1st. My name is Angèle Taillard, I'm 17 and I'm in senior year of high school in sciences, in Lycée Nicolas Brémontier of Bordeaux, France.

Ever since I was very young, I have been fascinated by and have had a keen interest in space, planets and sciences, but when I turned 12 I got a "revelation" about what I would like to do in the future: I met one of the physicians who worked on the Higgs Boson. (His name is Florian Bauer, a member of my family). During that summer, he showed me the constellations that are visible from the countryside. Lately, when I began to understand more sciences, we talked a lot about theoretical physics and he explained his job at the particle accelerator in Geneva to me. Since that day, I learned a lot about astronomy and astrophysics with the goal to work in one of these two scientific fields. When I turned 14, I was able to say "this is what I want to do in the future" and since then I've been working hard on it, focusing particularly on studying the stars, how they are born, how they live and how they die. Last year, I met an astronomer who presented his research on the pulsar, which can be directly linked to the stars I've been studying. My goal now is to go to preparatory class in order to enter an engineering school

This year, I've been pretty busy learning about how black holes work and focused my attention on particles such as boson and quarks. I often practice amateur astronomy, I have my own telescope and thanks to my high school "astro club", when the weather is good, I take some deep sky pictures and a lot of fun activities. We are a little group but we aim at building a telescope on our own, establishing the map of our galaxy and have many other great projects. We're studying the solar spot in the hope to create an animation of the solar revolution.

During my stay in Australia last summer, I was able and amazed to see the Magellan's cloud in the desert, and the Milky Way so clearly. It was wonderful to contemplate the immensity of the galaxy without telescope or even see the Southern Cross and the constellation of the Southern hemisphere. Even without instruments, I love starry nights and am always amazed by the jaw-dropping beauty and vastness of our universe, thinking about the stars where planets may be rotating and always trying to understand how galaxies are attracted to black holes. It's a passion I fully live and that makes me feel alive in our universe.

This camp will offer me the possibility to realize a little girl's dream to reach for the stars by entering an observatory in the mountains, up above the clouds and far from light pollution. But it's also an opportunity to see professional instruments at work and talk with scientists about space, time and the universe. It would be for me a gateway to get closer to the job of astrophysicist which is significant to me since I'm studying hard to achieve this goal. I would like to contemplate the Orion nebula without light pollution, which is for me the first constellation I ever see among the thousands of them, and it means a lot to me. This camp would be a welcome break from school and would enable me to live fully my passion and make some of my dreams come true for a few days.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Angèle Taillard



Where is this little photon...?