



WHY DO I WANT TO ATTEND ESO CAMP ?

The main reason that I want to participate in ESO Astronomy Camp is my enthusiasm I have had since my childhood, about astrophysics and observing celestial objects. I consider this camp the most favorable chance to enhance my proficiency in astronomy.

In primary school, I was a member of the astronomy club in our school for three years. That being the very first time I used a proper telescope, I began to stay for late-night observations and learn the fundamentals of astronomy. I attended Space Camp Turkey some time later, then the annual Space Festivals carried out within the school regularly. As I grew more interest on the subject, I looked for more advanced level of understanding the universe, then I met astrophysics.

During the middle and high school, I read a lot of books regarding astrophysics, relativity and quantum mechanics, as much as I could comprehend. I devised projects on fluid dynamics, thermodynamics and electronics, with one of which I was invited to present in the region finals of TUBITAK¹ project competition. Even though I was drawn away from astronomy itself since I struck into physics at that time, the astronomy course given last year -in 10th grade- has aroused my excitement again. The course was mainly on the Solar System, stellar evolution and classification. It was much more elaborate and satisfying than what I had learnt before. In the meantime, our teacher recommended us to join NASA Cassini Scientist for a Day contest if we were interested, for which I wrote an essay in favor of an Iapetus flyby also using the information taught in astronomy lessons. The essay was published on the webpage of Cassini Mission².

Now, I desire to achieve new and more. Lectures held by distinguished universities, the opportunity to study like an astronomer, observing an absolute clear sky outside the city, and of course outdoor activities with friends of my age tempt me to want in ESO Camp. I believe that spending a week there with such people would further improve both my knowledge and curiosity.

To sum up, I am eager about astronomy and expanding my horizon, therefore this camp is a golden occasion for me. I look forward to getting admission and hopefully participating in the camp.

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² saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/education/scientistforaday12thedition/international/winners2013/