

Astronomy and myself, by Elin Löfman

Ever since I was little I've always been incredibly fascinated with space. In the summer, me and my parents used to go star-gazing if the weather allowed it, and during the colder months I would lie in my room, looking at the little plastic stars and planets my parents had put up and pretend I was staring into the sky. I always wanted to know what was up there, why the stars were aligned just so and how they could shine so brightly even though they were so far away. As I grew older my philosophical views on space turned a bit more logical, and I grew more interested in the physical aspects of space and its content. I always used to grow frustrated because I could never directly study the stars and planets; I could only read about them. When we went to see a documentary about the Atacama Desert VLT, I was awestruck, and I knew that I would want to work with them or other telescopes/observatories someday. Visiting an observatory has been my dream for many years, and I don't know how many chances I will ever get to experience it if I'm not planning on working with astronomy in my adult years. Experiencing that particular field of studying in my current age would therefore give me a good look into what it's like to actually study space.



I haven't really gotten many chances to observe space through practical means, since my school never did any astronomy-themed field trips, and thus I have never gotten to see what it's like to actually watch the stars and planets "up close". Because of that, I haven't really gotten a good look into what it's like to work with astronomy more than what I've done in school, which has mostly been research work, and thus I have no idea what to expect. I'm a naturally curious person, so exploring looking into space would be fantastic.

Going to this camp would be a great experience and a chance for me to see what it's like to study the stars and planetary bodies that we have the ability to see through telescopes. It would be something I'd remember for a long time and also something that could potentially help me in my future career, as well as something I've wanted for a long time but never gotten the chance to try. I don't travel a lot since my family has neither the time nor the money to frequently go on long distance trips, and so I haven't really gotten the chance to experience

this sort of thing before. It would therefore be a good experience, not only for purely scientific reasons, but also because it would help me get a look on how some astronomers work and what I can expect, should I choose that particular field of work.

Of course would this camp not only be a good scientific experience or something to help me in the future, but also a really fun trip to make where I could meet people with the same interest, and where I could learn many things about one of my favorite subjects. It would be a great activity for my break and an experience I could share with my friends as well as a chance for me to explore the Alps, all the while studying something incredibly interesting. It would also be good since I study Natural Science in my high school/gymnasium and since I am going to study Physics next year, because it would give me some prior knowledge that I could potentially use in school. I would very much like to go to this camp and take part in this experience, because I would benefit from it significantly in striving to achieve what I've wanted for a long time.