

Outreach

Guided tours at the Museo della Specola

The Museo della Specola is open to the public every morning, Tuesday to Friday, upon previous booking. Two daily visits, of one hour duration, are scheduled at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. On request, guided tours can be in English or French, and can be arranged on different days and times.

Sky observations

For most of the year, OAPa runs evening visits to the Specola with sky observations guided by a technician and an astronomer, from the Observatory terrace, with a portable 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and from the dome with a fixed 14" Celestron telescope.

Groups or school classes of 20 people can make sun observations with the Coronado telescope and the sunspotter, under a technician's supervision and after an introductory session on the Sun.

On the occurrence of celestial events (eclipses, transits of planets, passages of comets), large initiatives are organized in public places, such as the Botanical Gardens, Palermo Cathedral parvis, city parks and gardens, where portable astronomical equipment is made available to the public and the images of the event are broadcast in real time on the Internet.

Astrogiochi

'Astrogames' are astronomy laboratories for children aged 5 to 12, taking place at the Museo della Specola, mainly on Saturdays from 4 to 7 p. m. While playing, children deepen their knowledge of the Sun, the Earth, the Moon and interesting physical phenomena such as magnetism and light refraction.

Other ongoing projects

Since 2005, OAPa has been participating in the Science graduation project (BSc in Physics), addressed to secondary school students. Launched by the Faculty of Science of Palermo University, the initiative has been promoted throughout the nation by the Ministry of Education.

The project goal is to organize laboratory activities, to be held either in schools or at University, for teachers and students of the upper three years, in order to acquaint the latter to themes and methodologies used in current scientific research and ultimately help them make the right choice regarding their graduate studies.

In 2007 OAPa launched and promoted the Project for teaching and popularizing physics, in network agreement with the Department of Physical and Astrophysical Sciences of Palermo University, the Council for Physics Courses Coordination and various higher education institutions in the Palermo province.

In the above framework it was conceived the yearly initiative entitled "Schools adopt an experiment", in which students play an active role by explaining to visitors the most recent scientific activities undertaken by University laboratories or research bodies such as INAF or the COMETA Consortium.

For information and bookings call 091-233247 on workday mornings and visit the url www.astro.unipa.it



Astrogames



Il telescopio C14 in cupola

