

# MW-GAIA: BRINGING THE MILKY WAY TO SCHOOLS 2021

JUNE  
2-4  
2021

## TOPICS COVERED

- The Milky Way as a Galaxy: the science and research background
- Dissemination of the GAIA science
- Bringing the research closer to the public
- Teaching the Milky Way in schools
- How to make teaching and science communication more inclusive

Deadline for abstract submission: 14 May 2021

Deadline for registrations: 1 June 2021



COST is supported by the  
EU Framework Programme  
Horizon 2020

COST ACTION CA-18104 HOSTED BY  
INSTITUTO DE ASTROFÍSICA E CIÊNCIAS DO ESPAÇO (PORTO, PT)  
VILNIUS UNIVERSITY (VILNIUS, LT)

## Poster 3

### ORGANIZERS



Vilnius  
University

## Saulė Kemėraitė

Young astronomers' camp, JAS, Lithuania

### Young astronomers' camp, JAS

Poster about JAS: who we are and what we do.

Since 2014 Art and Science Laboratory (MMLAB) annually carries out joint educational, art and astronomical research projects, the largest of which is the annual "Young astronomers' camp" (JAS), whose activities allowed young people to learn about the interaction between art and science and stimulated discussions on this topic. JAS is the only ongoing event of its kind for young people, and every year JAS brings together a growing number of young people interested in astronomy.

<https://www.mmlaboratorija.lt/edukacija/jaunju-astronomu-saskrydis>.

# YOUNG ASTRONOMERS



# SUMMER CAMP

## WHO ARE WE?

Since 2009 we are the only astronomy summer camp for kids in Lithuania – a place to learn about the Universe and to make friends at the same time. Our participants range from middle schoolers, who just started learning about the sky, to International Astronomy Olympiad prize winners.

## OUR NUMBERS:

- ☀ Participants: 60–80 children
- ☀ Age: 12 to 18 years old
- ☀ Duration: 1 Week
- ☀ Camp counselors: ~25 people

Camp usually takes place in early August. Dark warm nights are perfect time for observing the night sky – especially Perseids meteor shower!



## WHERE ARE WE?

Our stargazing camp (1) takes place in Kulionys village, Lithuania, in between Molėtai Astronomy Observatory (2) and Museum of Ethnocosmology (3) among the forests of Labanoras regional park. It's a place with low light pollution (Bortle scale 2), a perfect place to stargaze!



## CAMP GOALS:

Our main goal is to deepen kids' knowledge about astronomy – a subject quite overlooked in school curriculum. Camp attendees acquire better than average knowledge in field of astronomy compared to their peers; they show great results in national and global astronomy competitions. Also we help kids to socialize, find new friends, and unlock their creativity!

## ASTRONOMY ACTIVITIES

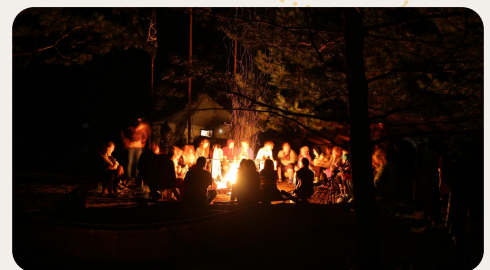
- ★ Lectures by astronomers and other astronomy field enthusiasts.
- ★ Workshops for: astronomy problem solving, learning to use telescopes, science experiments, preparing oral presentations
- ★ Looking at night sky, learning the constellations and using telescopes to observe planets, star clusters and galaxies
- ★ Astronomy trivia quizzes, fun tests and creative challenges

## HOW DO WE LIVE?

During the camp we live like scouts: we sleep in tents, cook our own food on the campfire, swim in the lake and spend as much time in nature, as possible.

## OTHER CAMP ACTIVITIES

- A big part of the camp is dedicated to creative expression, arts, socialization and physical activity:
- Art workshops for painting, construction, playing instruments, creating and performing plays
  - Lots of sport activities: hiking, morning exercise, volleyball tournament.
  - Spending cloudy evenings around the campfire chatting, playing guitars and singing songs.



## CAMP ORGANISERS

We are all astronomy enthusiasts and former camp participants. Among us we have many promising young specialists and PhD's in many different fields – from science to art!

## 2020 CAMP REVIEWS:

- ☾ 73% of kids said that camp activities were very interesting and useful.
- ☾ 78% of kids said they found more than 3 new friends.
- ☾ 100% of kids said they would recommend this camp to their friends.

