

Parent/Legal Guardian and Student Consent Form for Participation In A Harvard-Based Science Education Study

Dear Parent, Guardian, or Adult Caregiver,

We are researchers and science educators from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics that direct the **YouthAstroNet** project, a program funded by the National Science Foundation and now being used in your child's classroom or Out-Of-School Time (OST) program. We use students' widespread fascination with space science, astronomy, and robotics as a way to increase interest in and disposition toward careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and ICT (Information & Computer Technology). Students learn to control our robotic telescopes over the Internet to investigate the solar system, stars, and beyond. They develop skills that transfer across all STEM and ICT fields, and that provide a solid foundation for 21st century careers.

What does participation entail?

Your child's instructor will enroll students in a secure password-protected online **YouthAstroNet** account to give them access to the telescopes. You may access that account as well by asking the instructor for login information. As part of the project we conduct research to assess student interest in and knowledge of astronomy, and to survey their ICT and STEM career interests. They will be given an assessment survey before and after instruction, to help researchers determine what aspects of the **YouthAstroNet** program best support student learning and engagement. Your child's teacher or program leader does not grade or analyze these assessment surveys. No identifying information about students or information covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act will be collected. (Student will be given code-names, so we can track their responses throughout the program). You may choose not to have any data from your child's assessment or survey used for research purposes.

We also may conduct surveys to investigate parental or family support of children's learning in **YouthAstroNet** and pursuing ICT and STEM careers. Adult participation is completely voluntary and you, your child, or any other adult family member may stop at any time with no penalty or loss of benefits to which any of you are otherwise entitled.

Whom can you contact for more information?

If you have any questions about this research project, please contact: Mary Dussault, **YouthAstroNet** Project Director, mdussault@cfa.harvard.edu, 617-496-7962.

This research (Study IRB14-2396) has been reviewed by the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University. They can be reached at 617-4496-2847, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA, 02138, or cuhs@fas.harvard.edu for any of the following: If your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team, if you cannot reach the research team, if you want to talk to someone besides the research team, or if you have questions about your or your child's rights as a research participant.

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Thank you for completing this consent form indicating your preference to allow your student's participation and your own consent to participate in an adult survey. Please return it to your child's teacher or OST program instructor. Both you and your child need to sign the form. Please make a copy of this letter and consent form for your records.

Consent to Participate in the Research Study:

Check ***only one*** of the following 3 options, and sign below:

_____ **I agree** to allow my child to participate in the general research study of the *YouthAstroNet* program, which includes assessments and surveys of space science and career interest, and I **also agree** to participate in the adult survey if it is offered to me.

_____ **I agree** to allow my child to participate in the general research study of the *YouthAstroNet* program, which includes assessments and surveys of space science and career interest, **but I do not agree** to participate in the adult survey if it is offered to me.

_____ **I do NOT agree** to allow my child to participate in the general research study of the *YouthAstroNet* program, which includes assessments and surveys of space science and career interest, and **I do not agree** to participate in the adult survey if it is offered to me

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____