

## What is Project ASTRO?

Project ASTRO is a science education program that links professional and amateur astronomers with teachers and youth-group leaders in elementary and middle school. The program's goals are to develop partnerships between astronomers and educators, and to give students hands-on experiences with astronomy and science. Astronomers work with their teacher partners and visit the student groups at least four times during the school year.

## Brief History

Developed in 1993 by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) as a pilot project in the San Francisco Bay Area, Project ASTRO has now expanded to eleven sites around the country (see map). Supported by coalitions of educational, scientific and business organizations, the sites offer Project ASTRO to new groups of partners, forming over 200 new teacher-astronomer partnerships across the country each year. The eleven sites are joined in a **National Network** that works to foster communication among the sites and with the science education community, and to mentor new sites as they join.

## Key Elements of Project ASTRO

- Share love of science with students
- Establish ongoing partnerships, joining astronomers and educators as equal partners
- Train partners to present hands-on astronomy activities that allow students to act as the scientists
- Disseminate the best materials developed by other programs
- Involve families and community groups in the learning process
- Reach out to under-served groups
- Connect participants to local ASTRO sites and the National Network

## Project ASTRO Publications

- *The Universe at Your Fingertips (1995)* - 813 pages of astronomy activities and resources
- *More Universe at Your Fingertips (2000)* - 356 pages of activities and resources
- *Project ASTRO How-To Manual for Teachers and Astronomers* - booklet of guidelines for forming effective partnerships
- *Project ASTRO: Partners in Learning* - 12-minute video that gives an overview of the program

*All materials can be purchased through the ASP nonprofit catalog. Call 1-800-335-2624 or visit the ASP/ASTRO web site: [www.aspsky.org/project\\_astro.html](http://www.aspsky.org/project_astro.html)*

# Project ASTRO



## National Network

*Working Together Across the Country  
to Join Astronomers & Teachers  
as Partners in Astronomy Education*