

Schools and Non-Profit Organizations Eligible to Win Telescope from NET Television

LINCOLN, Neb. (Oct. 30, 2009) -- From Galileo's first look at the cosmos in 1609, to today's thrilling quests to discover new worlds, humankind is starry-eyed over space. As part of a grant awarded to NET Television to celebrate four centuries of our fascination with astronomy and the PBS Television program "400 Years of the Telescope," Nebraska schools and non-profit organizations can apply to win a Celestron telescope.

The portable, top-of-the-line telescope model is CPC® 800 GPS XLT, and it is designed for amateur astronomers. The telescope can provide details about the surface of Jupiter and Saturn's rings, as well as features on the surface of Mars. It can also offer images of far-off Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The value of the telescope is \$1,999.00.

To apply for the Celestron telescope, Nebraska schools serving students in grades kindergarten through 12, and non-profit organizations must submit a 100-word essay outlining why the telescope should be awarded to them, and how they would use it. Essays must be postmarked by Dec. 1, 2009, and no e-mail submissions will be accepted. Schools and organizations should be sure to include complete contact information -- name, organization, address, phone number and e-mail address. Essays should be sent to: Martha Florence at NET Television, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503. Questions should be directed to Florence at 402/472-9333, ext. 603.

Representatives from Nebraska astronomy organizations will judge the essays and assist in the selection of the telescope recipient. The winner of the telescope will be notified via telephone by Dec. 18, 2009.

Scheduled for broadcast in January on NET Television (check local listings), "400 Years of the Telescope" presents the human quest to understand the structure and nature of the universe. From reenactments of Galileo's telescopic invention and early pen drawings of the moons of Jupiter, to vivid multi-colored nebulas captured by the Hubble Space Telescope, the program takes viewers from their armchairs into the wonders of space exploration.

The program is narrated by astrophysicist and author Neil deGrasse Tyson, host of the PBS series "NOVA ScienceNow." It is complemented by a Web site (netNebraska.org/telescope) that offers more about the production of "400 Years of the Telescope" and the history of astronomy, as well as links to other organizations that focus on the science.

NET Television is a service of NET. For complete program schedules, visit NET's Web site at netNebraska.org/television.

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NET Television:

NET1 is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral and other news, public affairs, history and science programs; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.