

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Structures for Space Education (2)

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SPACE EDUCATION IN THE YOUNG ASTRONAUTS CLUB JAPAN

Abstract

This paper reports an example of space education practices in the Young Astronauts Club Japan (YAC) Yokohama Chapter in 2008. Through the YAC, the members (from elementary school to high school) develop questions related to the activities which help to expand their curiosity and often leads to interests in other areas and subjects. Also I will consider the characteristics and effectiveness of space education.

YAC is one type of social education. In YAC activities, elementary school to high school students work together. This is the most difficult point for YAC leaders. In schools, all students need to have a certain level of understandings about topics. But in social education, the level of understandings is different of every member. The activities of the Yokohama chapter help to expand members' interests in science and other subjects as well. In the Yokohama chapter, leaders do not expect the members to understand a phenomenon completely. Leaders expect the members to expand their own interests and curiosity.