Take middle school children beyond the solar system with a fun, hands-on afterschool astronomy program!

Afterschool Universe explores basic astronomy concepts through engaging activities, introducing topics of great interest not typically studied in school. Make out-of-school time totally out-of-this-world with activities about the scale and structure of the Universe, light, telescopes, stars, black holes, and more!

Developed by the Astrophysics Science Division at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, Afterschool Universe was successfully pilot tested in 2006 and 2007, and has since been implemented around the country. Leaders said that they became “more enthused about astronomy because [they] now have a better understanding.” One student said, “It changed my idea of how big the Universe really is.”

Afterschool Universe can be run in a variety of settings – from astronomy days to summer camps to year-long afterschool programming. All activities are in the real world, not virtual, and materials are low-cost and reusable. An in-depth manual provides detailed recipes for running program sessions, and supplementary resources are available to facilitators through our website.

Want to find out more? Learn more about the program and training opportunities at: http://universe.nasa.gov/afterschool/