Libraries Under the Stars

Ten libraries. Ten telescopes. Ten stories worth sharing.

Every library has a story. We want to help tell yours!

Libraries Under the Stars celebrates public libraries bringing astronomy to their communities. Ten selected libraries will receive a library-ready telescope, staff training, and individual guidance from the Library Telescope Program (LTP). We will also help share your journeys to inspire other libraries.

What selected libraries receive

- Apertura Library Telescope Edition, prepared by High Point Scientific (reference value: $370).
- Access to Library Foundations and Launch Essentials staff training (assigned program value: $100).
- A private, approximately 30-minute video consultation with LTP to discuss goals, launch questions, operations, and library needs.
- Recognition as an LUS grant recipient in an LTP newsletter announcement; opportunities to share approved stories and photos through LTP communications.
- Activity and program support through STAR Net

The telescope and training package has a stated value of $470 per library. The consultation and recognition are included without a separate stated monetary value.

Sharing your library's story — simple participation

Once selected, we ask recipients to provide a short library profile, three to five photographs (with appropriate permissions), answers to three short questions, and one brief follow-up about three to six months after receipt. LTP handles drafting and editing; libraries review and approve materials before publication. Identifiable patron photographs and positive testimonials are not required.

All ten recipients will be acknowledged in a newsletter announcement. More extensive Library Spotlight newsletter features will be offered to selected libraries based on available stories, diversity of experiences, and editorial fit—not a ranking of libraries. Optional recorded or live online interviews may also be offered; these are not required.

About Ambassador resources

Recipients will receive information about the LTP Ambassador Program. Ambassador assistance is not funded or guaranteed under this grant and depends on local availability.

Important dates

Grant announcement	**November 23, 2026**
Application deadline	December 11, 2026
Award notifications	December 18, 2026
Target ship-by date	December 29, 2026

How to apply

Read this overview and complete the online SurveyMonkey application by December 11, 2026. The application includes the required participation acknowledgments and your typed name and title. No separate signed overview is required.

APPLY: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SV39XJC

Questions: [aholland@spacescience.org]