

**Subject:** Why is it important for you to visit Space Camp

Turkey is such a country that it is different in nature, geography, people. At the same time it is such a country that it could realize the importance of science too late. The reason to this delay should be found in the history of Turkish people. While Europe was having the Renaissance and Reforms, the Ottoman Empire was in a stable situation in every branch of life. There were wars for land but not much for science.

After the foundation of Turkish Republic a new brand point of view was held for science. Lack of education and self-confidence were the obstacles that needed to be accomplished.

In today's Turkey, these obstacles are finally being encountered. As a branch of science, Astronomy is being supported a lot these days. There are progressive studies about it and people who are really keen on Astronomy.

Our country has a number of well known and respectful scientists whose studies must not be looked down on. In spite of all these, there is still a lot of way to go. Above all what has changed today is that, the studies are being explained to public. Foundations like Izmir Space Camp and Global Friendship Through Space Education Foundation began to educate the people of our country not only about Astronomy that is related to the Space Age we are in but also about other sciences and technology.

A strong base for the future is being prepared by organizations towards teenage groups especially. A camp that will be very helpful to serve this aim is going to be organized between the dates 06-12 July 2003. Turkish students and students from other countries and cultures will together study, have fun along these 6 days.

In addition to all these personal reasons convinced me to join this camp. I have been dealing with Astronomy for a long time. I improved in this field with the help of my school I am going now. I decided to be doing something in this branch in my work career. The projects I got, the Astronomy lesson I took, the day-night observations I made and the trips have taught me a lot. Now I believe I am a professional amateur.

I think that the value given to Astronomy in Turkey should be increased and that's why I want to succeed in some things. I am sure that this camp I want to join will be a helpful reference to me. I would not like to miss this opportunity.

Derya Sözen