

LIBRARY TELESCOPE PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Don Ficken
dficken@librarytelescope.org
(636) 851-9630

Library Telescope Program Expands as Non-Profit

St. Louis, MO - The Library Telescope Program is excited to announce its official transition to a non-profit organization with an application for 501(c)(3) status currently pending. This positions the **Library Telescope Program** to significantly broaden its reach by eliminating financial and logistical obstacles that prevent individuals and families from exploring the universe.

The **Library Telescope Program** aims to inspire curiosity and learning by making the night sky more accessible to everyone, regardless of age, background, or budget. We are developing a program that allows libraries to purchase modified telescopes directly from a supplier. These telescopes are designed to be more durable and user-friendly for patrons to check out like a book. While some libraries have received these telescopes as gifts, most opt to purchase them with their own funds.

Since its inception in 2008, the **Library Telescope Program** has sparked a revolution in public access to astronomy. Originally launched by amateur astronomer **Marc Stowbridge** and the **New Hampshire Astronomical Society** (NHAS), the program began by circulating telescopes through public libraries in New Hampshire for checkout like a book. “What started as a hopeful initiative to have a handful of libraries adopt our telescope program has now surpassed our wildest expectations, with growth that will only be further amplified by the establishment of our new nonprofit entity”, said **Marc Stowbridge, LTP Director**.

This grassroots initiative has become a global movement, with telescopes available for checkout at over 1,000 library locations worldwide (librarytelescope.org/world) including the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

"This marks an exciting new chapter for the Library Telescope Program," declared **Don Ficken, LTP Board President**. "With our new nonprofit status, we are laying the groundwork to introduce the science of astronomy to communities across the world." Individual contributors to the growth of the **Library Telescope Program** include amateur astronomer Tom Lynch, who has managed the LTP Facebook Page since 2020, enthusiastic library staff, amateur astronomers from across the world, and the **Library Telescope Program Board of Directors**: President Don Ficken President, Vice-President Michelle Nichols-Yehling, Secretary Jerelyn Ramirez, Treasurer Patrick Rohrkaste, and Director Marc Stowbridge.

To learn more about the **Library Telescope Program**, go to <https://librarytelescope.org>