



ROWAN UNIVERSITY

Behind the Telescope: Building Girls' Confidence in STEM Through Hands-on Astronomy Outreach

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Student educators Patrick and Cole demonstrate at Behind the Telescope event for Girl Scouts and their families.

Credits: Rowan University

Through Behind the Telescope, the Edelman Planetarium will increase self-confidence and improve awareness of and interest in astronomy and related STEM careers in middle school girls across southern New Jersey through four public outreach events. Working with our partners, we will create authentic STEM experiences to show students that NASA is more than just rockets. The goals of the proposed program

are to provide middle school girls with an increased awareness of and interest in astronomy and astronomy careers; increased confidence in their ability to perform science; and an opportunity to earn STEM merit badges. Each outreach event will provide learners with hands-on activities, access to scientists at NASA, and telescope observations. In addition, custom planetarium shows and video interviews with scientists will provide students with role models to highlight the diversity of people, professions, and backgrounds at NASA and worldwide.

List of Partners:

- Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey
- Rowan University, Physics and Astronomy Club

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