Our Astronomy Club

Our primary focus of DSBK is hosting an 8- to 10-week afterschool astronomy club at a local elementary school. Each week we focus on a different topic of astronomy ranging from the solar system to galaxies to life beyond Earth. The typical format of a club is:

- Introductory slideshow
- Wiggle Time
- Activities 1 & 2 in cycle
- Journal Time

This past semester we encountered a group of students that did not learn well under our normal structure. Instead of journals and classroom activities, they were more receptive to science when presented in a kinesthetic style. Monitoring and adjusting, we restructured each club to be a more well-suited learning environment so that this group could learn about astronomy and have fun with science!

Restructuring “Astrobiology Day”

Week 5: Astrobiology!

- Introduction: Discussion of what is life
  - Video of water bears
- Wiggle Time: Telescope, Fly-by, Orbiter
- Activities:
  1. Planet Spectroscopy
  2. Drake Equation & worksheet
  3. Where is Life, with Mascots
- Journal Time & Questions

Looking Forward

DSBK has been granted $75,000 from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation to support 3 years of summer educational programs in more rural communities of Virginia.