DSBK is a volunteer-run outreach organization based out of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Virginia. Our core mission is to enhance elementary science education targeted at underserved schools in Virginia. The program seeks to foster the natural curiosity of children by helping them explore the Universe in a social setting with fun, hands-on activities.

**8-Week After School Clubs**

**Goal:**
- Meaningful relationships between scientists & underserved students around Charlottesville
- Evaluate our impact with the Draw-A-Scientist Test

**Our approach:**
- 1 topic/week ranging from the EM spectrum to galaxies
- ~5 volunteers per ~2 hr club of 12-20 students, mix of new/returning volunteers
- Intro → “Wiggle time” → 2-3 Activities → Journals

**Takeaways:**
- Adapt curriculum for students
- Additional support from school for issues scientists aren’t trained for
- Incorporate volunteers’ expertise

**Astronomy Summer Camps**

**Goal:**
- Adapt clubs into camps for underserved schools in rural VA

**Our approach:**
- 2 topics/day for 1 week
- Same ~5 volunteers for 12-20 students all week
- Host a Star Party at the end to invite families and share student’s favorite activities

**Takeaways:**
- Significant coordination and prior planning
- Cooperation with hosting org
- Portable activities ideal for sharing/leaving with rural orgs

**Community Star Party**

**Goal:**
- Science-positive community of all ages, demographics

**Our approach:**
- Free event for hundreds of attendees
- Local company collaborations to minimize cost, increase public access
- Local EPO groups collaborations for improved volunteer-to-attendee ratio

**Takeaways:**
- Approachable, easy-to-digest
- Informal interactions equally important
- Range of activity complexity for volunteers and attendees

**Overall Takeaways:**
- Don’t be afraid to ask for support!
- Doing > Showing > Telling
- Adapt activities for students, volunteers, and learning environment

For more information, activity resources, and ways you can help, find us on Facebook (Dark Skies Bright Kids) and at our website: faculty.virginia.edu/DSBK/