

Official Guidance for Local Organizers of WWT Tour Contest

Welcome to WWT tour contest !

The WWT tours competition is based on the WWT platform, which can help teenagers and the public who love astronomy understand astronomy knowledge in a simple way, stimulate their imagination and creativity, and enhance their enthusiasm for astronomical exploration.

This official guide will help you easily organize a WWT tour in your country. You only need to follow the steps provided by the simple version in this official guide to complete the organization of the competition. If you want to organize the competition more lively and colorful, we also refer to the experience of China, and provide you with the corresponding guide.

1. About WorldWide Telescope

WorldWide Telescope (WWT) is an astronomical data visualization platform. It is a suite of free and open source software and data sets that combine to create stunning scientific visualizations and stories. The WWT ecosystem includes two Windows applications — compatible, localized versions published by the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and the Chinese Virtual Observatory (China-VO) — an interactive web app, and tool kits for Python and TypeScript/JavaScript. Participants in the tour contest should download one of the Windows applications, which offer the best tour-authoring experience.

WWT is an awesome instrument for astronomical science popularization, and it also provides a fire-new channel for astronomers to show their achievements, expanding the influence of astronomy.

You can see what a WWT looks like at the AAS WWT YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/AASWorldWideTelescope>

You can learn more about WWT platform at:

<http://worldwidetelescope.org/about/>

And you can preview the WWT Windows experience using the

AAS WorldWide Telescope web app at:

<http://worldwidetelescope.org/webclient/>

DOWNLOAD Links:

China-VO version: <https://nadc.china-vo.org/wwt/>

AAS version: <http://worldwidetelescope.org/download/>

The WWT tours contest is based on the WWT platform, which can help teenagers and the public who love astronomy understand astronomy knowledge in a simple way, stimulate their imagination and creativity, and enhance their enthusiasm for astronomical exploration.

2. Organizing the Local WWT Tours Contest

It is very easy to organize a WWT tours contest locally. You just need to make some simple preparations. This official guidance will help you have a clear and complete understanding of this contest step by step.

In the following content, we prepared two versions of the guideline for you : **simple edition** and **complete edition**. You could easily organize the local contest by simply following the content of the simple version.

If you have enough manpower and hope to make the competition more colorful, you could add any content in the complete version to your scheme as needed.

Also, always check **The International WorldWide Telescope Tour Contest (WTC) official website** for new information and material.

IWTC official website: <https://contest.worldwidetelescope.org/>

SIMPLE EDITION:

BEFORE THE CONTEST BEGIN

A. Announcement

If you decided to organize the contest, you' d better prepare an announcement that includes the following key points:

- A brief introduction of WWT&WWT tours contest
- Requirements about the entry tours
- Time-line of the contest
- Ways to submit the entry tours
- Awards

An attractive poster will help a lot. If you want, you can always use material provided on IWTC website.



B. Entry Requirements

The contest is held base on the WWT platform, so it encourages contestants to make full use of the massive data from the WWT and fully explore the functions and resources of the platform.

- WWT tour submitted to the contest are required to use WWT platform (China-VO version or AAS version) , contestants will enter by sending the tours (WTT files) .
- It would be better to keep a tour in 3-5 minutes, According to previous experience, this duration can ensure the integrity of the narrative and bring a good sense of view to the audience. If necessary, contestants can extend the time appropriately.
- Users can participate in the contest alone or team participation. It 's best not more than 5 people in each team, excessive population may be detrimental to the production.
- Make sure you collect enough information from the participates so you can contact them later. A reference ***Registration Form*** is provide on the IWTC official Website.

C. Time-line

The 1st International WorldWide Telescope Contest(IWTC) will be held after the local contest, and the submission deadline of the IWTC is June 30th, 2022. In order to ensure that you could submit your tours to the International Organizing Committee on time, the schedule of local contest needs to be completed before this date. Therefore, you ' d better be able to refer to this deadline to schedule your local contest.

Based on the above considerations, we suggest that the schedule of local contest would be planed as follows :

- **BEFORE 1ST DEC,2021** Release the announcement of the local contest, and open registration and submission of WWT tours
- **BEFORE 30TH APR,2022** Deadline for submission of local contest
- **BEFORE 30TH APR,2022** Deadline for submission of local contest
- **BEFORE 30TH MAY,2022** You' d better finish reviewing all entry tours, and conform the list of tours which will participate the IWTC.

* 30TH JUN,2022 is the deadline for submission of IWTC

D. Ways to Submit the Entry Tours

There are many ways to submit tours: email, cloud storage, official website and so on. You' d better choose a convenient way to collect **registration form** and **entry tours**, which can help you improve organizational efficiency, and also make it convenient for contestants to participate in the contest.

BEFORE THE CONTEST ENDS

A. Tours Reviewing

After finish collecting the entry tours of local contest, the organizers may review and rank all of them. In order to ensure the review smoothly and easily, it is recommended that judgement be conducted in the following points:

- Scientific quality: Whether there are scientific mistakes in a tour and whether the contestant has popularized some scientific knowledge to the audience.
- Narration: Whether the narration of a tour is complete, attractive, and creative.
- Artistic quality: Whether the visual effects, music and voice-over of a tour are well-chosen and enjoyable.
- WWT technical level: Whether tours properly use functions in the WWT platform.

B. Awards

In order to encourage more and more people to participate actively in the competition and use the WWT platform as much as possible, the first, second and third prizes could be set for the contest according to the number of entries, but also some interesting single awards , such as Best Visual Award, Best Creative Award, Best Science Communication Award, etc.

WHEN THE CONTEST ENDS

A. Announcement of Results

After the judgement and score statistics are completed, the local organizers may announce the results to the contestants. You may send an email, a SMS and so on in a convenient way.

B. Submitting Tours to IWTC

After finish the local contest reviewing, the local organizers would to select excellent tours from the award-winning tours to participate in IWTC. The tours selected for the IWTC must meet the requirements of the contest, otherwise they will lose the qualification. The entry requirements can be checked on **the contest rules page of IWTC website.**

ATTENTION: Local WWT Tours Contest Summary Form must be submitted by local organizer with all selected tours! Find it on the resources page of the IWTC website.

COMPLETE EDITION:

If you have enough energy and manpower to organize the contest, and want to make it more enjoyable and colorful, we are pleased to offer you some additional suggestions.

A. Announcement

In addition to the points listed in the simple edition, you may add more contents to this announcement, such as : local organizing committees, more detailed entry requirements, group division for contestants, and the link of official website. Otherwise you can make a proposal to provide a training about WWT for contestants, design a slogans and posters for the competition, recruit media agencies for promotion and propaganda, etc. These contents can also be listed in the announcement.

- A brief introduction of WWT&WWT tours contest
- Slogan&Poster&Official website
- Requirements about the entry tours
- Time-line of the contest
- Ways to submit the entry tours
- Proposal of WWT training
- Awards

B. Organizational Structure

If there are enough human resources locally, the local organizers may consider to establish a complete organizational structure, including : organizers, co-organizers, undertakers and media collaborators. Sponsors can also be recruited if needed. A complete organizational structure can provide more resources for the competition, improve the work efficiency of the local organizing committee, and make the competition more orderly.

After determining the organizational structure, the persons in charge of the organizers could decide the members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The LOC members would be composed of the heads of each agency in the organization, and needs to commit to:

- Determining the process and rules of the contest
- Releasing contest information
- Accepting local registration and collecting WWT tours
- Organizing to review local tours and sending finalists on to the International Organizing Committee
- Communicating with the International Organizing Committee

For tours reviewing, it is recommended that you would invite experts with different backgrounds such as science, education and art to participate in the reviewing of tours, so that they will evaluate tours from different points of view.

C. The Official Website/ Mail Group

Establishing an official website can make the competition more regular, facilitate the collection of registration forms and entries, promote news about the competition and provide a platform for showing the winning tours. You may invite the people who are good at building a website in LOC to finish this job.

A website might include following features:

- Announcement
- Registration Entrance
- Organization Structure
- Awards List
- Related Links
- Promotion and Propaganda

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D. Group Division

This is an astronomical general game for all ages, no matter the nationality, gender, education background, people who have mastered the operational approach of WWT, or just passionate about astronomy can join in the contest.

Dividing the contestants into different groups may benefit the fairness of the contest and give more opportunities to as many tours as possible. Considering the need for relatively consistent cognitive level and knowledge background within the same group, and considering the past experiences, it is recommended to group as follows:

- University Level (design a high level tour to educate) Young astronomer
- School Level (School knowledge) IAU Education
- Public Level (exciting new nothing) IAU EPO

The above criteria could be referred to when designing the local contest, especially when the population of local participants is large, Grouping will greatly improve the evaluation efficiency.

E. Entry Requirements

The contest strongly encourages the participants to make full use of the massive data from the WWT and fully explore the functions and resources of the platform. At the same time, the entry tours would be scientific and artistic.

- WWT tour submitted to the contest are required to use WWT platform (China-VO version or AAS version). Contestants will enter by sending the tours (WTT files) to the contest organizers. If you choose to accept entries in other formats, you may not be able to accurately assess the contestant' s usage of WWT platform when you reviewing it.
- If necessary, subtitles or voice-overs could be added to tours, which may help the audience better appreciate and understand the works. In local WWT contests, contestants can choose a wide range of languages when produce tours according to their own preferences and usage habits.
- Users can participate in the contest alone, or team participation. According to the past experiment, no more than 5 persons in each team are suitable that each member could take responsibility and complete the appropriate

workload.

- The duration of a WWT tour could be 3-5 minutes. If necessary, contestants can extend the time appropriately.
- Once the submitted tours reference to pictures, videos, music, scripts .etc from other people' s production, it is better that a normative references are listed at the end of the tours. All submitted tours can not infringe intellectual property rights and legitimate rights and interests of others.

The requirements above may provide you with some reference when making rules for local contest. Further, if some of the tours in the local contest are chosen to participate in the IWTC, they may also meet the requirements of the international contest. Entry requirements of IWTC can be checked on the website of the contest.

F. Time-line

Comprehensively thinking about the smooth progress of the local contests and the submission time of the IWTC , we suggest that the schedule of local contest could be planed as follows :

- **BEFORE 1ST DEC,2021** Release the announcement of the local contest, and open to tour submission.
- **BEFORE 1ST FEB,2022** Hold teaching and training session for 1-2 times to help the contestants who interested in this contest mastering the basics of using WWT platform, and ensure that enough time is left for them to complete the tours.
- **BEFORE 30TH APR,2022** Deadline for submission of local contest
- **BEFORE 30TH MAY,2022** All tours should finish being reviewed, part excellent ones of them will be conformed to participant the IWTC.
- *** 30TH JUN,2022 Deadline for submission of IWTC**
- **AFTER 30TH JUN,2022** Release the result of the local contest ,and hold an award ceremony (optional)

*The item with star symbol is the deadline for submitting tours to IWTC. All tours selected to IWTC should complete the submission before the date.

G. Slogan and Poster

It is better for local organizers to write a slogan that can introduce the significance and characteristics of the contest, as well as the importance for learning astronomy by using the WWT platform and attract the public to participate in the contest.

A striking poster will play an important role in promoting the contest. It is suggested that local organizers can collect the designs from artists, astronomy amateur and K12 students, and unite as many people as possible to promote the local contest.



The poster of 5th WWT Tours Contest of China(left) and 1st International WWT Contest

H. Release the Announcement of the Local Contest

When all of these things above are prepared, the local contest organizers would publish the contest announcement on the website or send it through mail group at the planned date. In order to attract as much attention as possible to the contest, it is strongly recommended that the organizers may collaborate with local media agencies to help promote the information.

AFTER THE CONTEST BEGINS

A. Teaching and Training

Some people who are interested in this contest may not be familiar with the operation of WWT platform. If local organizers would hold varied forms of training after the beginning of the contest, it will attract more people to participate in the competition, and help the contestants quickly understand the WWT platform and master its basic usage.

The local organizing committee may jointly hold training with local universities and educational institutions. The types of training could be local workshops, small lectures, online MOOC and so on.

It is strongly recommended to hold different types of training

1-2 times before the half of the contest, and to answer questions that encountered in producing tours before the deadline of submission. These training would be of great benefit to the improvement of the level of the contestants. Trainers may refer to the materials that named *The AAS WorldWide Telescope User Manual* on AAS official website: <https://docs.worldwidetelescope.org/user-manual/1/> to prepare your own training courses.

B. Promotion and Propaganda About the Contest

Sufficient publicity and promotion during the contest can help people better understand the contest, stimulate people' s creative enthusiasm and promote people' s attention to the contest.

The local organizers would release some past excellent WWT tours cases, they will provide more ideas and inspiration to upcoming participants. Excavating the interesting stories of the contestants, and inviting excellent tour producers to share experience on social media will also give the public a better understanding of the competition and WWT platform.

BEFORE THE CONTEST ENDS

C. Tours Reviewing

The review of tours would be completed by the juries who are invited to join in the local review committee. If you want to make a careful reviewing of the entry tours, it is recommended that juries would conduct 2–3 rounds of reviewing in local contest.

The first round is the preliminary trial, which needs to exclude tours with obvious scientific mistakes, rough production and incomplete content.

If the number of submitted tours of local contest is large, the juries can initiate a second round of reviewing. This round of reviewing could be grouped, the average score given by the juries is the final score of the tours in each group. Finally, the scores of each tours need to be recalculated to minimize the differences caused by different jury groups. In this round of reviewing, juries would better pay full attention to the production skills, theme conception, story richness and originality of tours.

The final round of evaluation will award first-prize, second-prize, third-prize and other personal awards. The number of regular awards can be set according to the number

of submitted tours. At the same time, the local organizing committee may set up some interesting awards for one project to encourage participants to better use the WWT platform and produce more and better tours.

D. Promotion and Propaganda

The contest will last a long time, so promoting news and stories during this period would keep a deep impression in public. Local organizers may interview some contestants to share their ideas and memorable stories. These stories could be published on the social media of the organizers, which can not only help the contest establish a positive image in public, but also strengthen the interaction between the contests and the users of the WWT platform.

WHEN THE CONTEST ENDS

A. Announcement of Results

After the score statistics completed, the results would be published after confirmation. The local organizers could notice the result to the contestants and the public on the website, and diffuse it through mail group and media.

B. Submitting Tours to IWTC

After the local competition reviewing, the local organizing committee would select excellent tours from the award-winning tours to participate in IWTC. The tours selected must meet the requirements of the IWTC, otherwise they will lose the qualification. Therefore, some tours may need further modification, contestants should complete it on time.

The tours that intend to participate in IWTC could be submitted by the local organizing committee. The International Organization Committee will publish the registration method through the official website and mail group before the registration time begins.

C. Promotion and Propaganda

It is suggested that the promotion and publicity in this period may focus on the development of WWT platform technology and the experience of WWT tours producing in different countries and regions. The local organizers may invite relevant experts to write articles and release them on local media platforms and social media.

AFTER THE CONTEST OVER

A. The Show of award-winning tours

The local organizers may hold an award-winning tour exhibition after all contests finishing, either online or offline. The exhibition will be widely disseminated astronomical knowledge, so that tours play a greater value. The organizers may choose the WWT planetariums, and the huge dome will bring a very shocking audio-visual effect to the audience. If it is not convenient for getting together, it can also be displayed on local official websites and social media. The audience from all over the world can enjoy these wonderful tours, and the popularity of WWT will be further expanded.

B. Certificates and Award Ceremony

Pressing a certificates and holding an award ceremony may make the contest more ceremonial.

The local organizers could prepare the certificates for the contestants. The style of the certificates could refer to the template of the example above, and can also be self-designed. The certificates shall be affixed with the seal of the local organizers.



Certificate example

An award ceremony may provide a close communication opportunity for players. If it is not convenient to hold the awarding ceremony offline, it may also award the contestants on virtual meetings.

C. Promotion and Propaganda

Communication between different countries is also important. After the IWTC, the local organizers could exhibit the award-winning tours from different countries and regions to show different cultures and enhance mutual understanding.

3. OTHER

Finally, visit the IWTC official website frequently and check any information and material you need. if you have any questions, feel free to contact us use mailing list.

Sincerely wish you success in hosting the local contest and it can greatly promote astronomy education and public outreach activities in your country or area! Good Luck!