

Name Our Asteroid Competition

We hereby invite all young South Africans to name a newly discovered asteroid. The asteroid was discovered in 2005 on March the 11th by Dr. Amanda Gulbis as part of the Deep Ecliptic Survey, using the Mayall 4-m telescope at Kitt Peak National Observatory. It was numbered as asteroid 202373, but has not been formally named. The discoverer of an asteroid has the right to propose a name. Dr. Gulbis kindly offers South African youth the opportunity to name asteroid 202373 on her behalf. Proposed names will be examined by a selection committee at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), and the competition winner's proposed name will be forwarded to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) for ratification.

Who can apply?

Any South African young person whose age is 18 years or under. Either groups (school, church, clubs, etc.) or individuals are welcome to submit entries. See the "[How to apply](#)" section below for details. The winner will not only have the honor of naming the asteroid, but will also receive a PRIZE!

How to apply?

First, you must read the "[Rules for asteroid naming](#)" section below. Names will not be accepted unless all rules are followed.

Then fill out the application form at end of this document, which requires the asteroid name, the motivation for the name, and your contact details. Submissions must be received by 11 December 2009. You can send your entry via any of the following:-

- Fax to (021) 447 3639
- Postal mail to SAAO: Name Our Asteroid
SAAO
P.O. Box 9
Observatory
7935
South Africa
- Email to asteroid@sao.ac.za

You can also apply online at the website <http://www.nameourasteroid.org.za/>

How is the winner selected?

A selection committee, headed by the discoverer, will be in charge of narrowing down the entries to a list of the top five. Astronomers, as well as other members of the community, will be involved in the selection process. Once the top five names are determined, voting will be opened to the general public to decide the winner. Public voting will occur 18-31 January 2010, and more details will be provided by that date.

The winner will be announced **01 February 2010**. The decision of the selection committee is final. Note that the name must be submitted to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and is only official after their approval.

If your asteroid name is selected ...

The person or group who submit the winning asteroid name will be credited in the submission to the IAU (International Astronomical Union). This is the text that is permanently associated with the asteroid and describes the discovery and reason for the name.

In addition, the winner will receive a TELESCOPE! With this telescope one would be able to see the craters on the Moon, rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, star clusters, nebulae and lots more! More details to follow.

Rules for asteroid naming

We suggest you propose a name with African connections. Any South African official languages are acceptable.

- (1) Only young people, 18 years or under of age, living in South Africa are eligible to enter.
- (2) Each individual or group can propose only one name. [Note that individuals are allowed to also submit names as a group member.]
- (3) Please take the International Astronomical Union (IAU) rules into account. The winning name **must** be approved by the IAU in order to become official. The IAU rules for naming a minor planet are as follows (from http://www.iau.org/public_press/themes/naming/):
 - 16 characters or less in length
 - preferably one word
 - pronounceable (in some language)
 - non-offensive
 - not too similar to an existing name of a Minor Planet or natural Planetary satellite. Lists of existing names are at <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/lists/MPNames.html>
 - The names of individuals or events principally known for political or military activities are unsuitable until 100 years after the death of the individual or the occurrence of the event.
 - names of pet animals are discouraged
 - names of a purely or principally commercial nature are not allowed

About Asteroid 202373

Asteroid 202373 is orbiting around the Sun in a nearly circular orbit. Its distance from the Sun is about 3 times the average Earth to Sun distance, which means it is located between Mars and Jupiter. One orbit takes 1920 days (5 years and 3 months). At the end of October 2009, the asteroid was located in the direction of the constellation Leo. Leo can be seen from South Africa in the early morning, but you cannot see the asteroid with the naked eye because it is too faint! It is about a billion times fainter than the brightest stars (such as alpha Centauri and Vega). No one knows its exact size or composition, but rough estimates put it around 1 to 5 km in size.

For educators / parents / group leaders

Please take this opportunity to empower our young people. This competition will give learners the opportunity to learn about the solar system and to start thinking about our place in the universe. If you need any help, do not hesitate to contact us.

Notes

The name submitted to the IAU Minor Planet Centre will be judged by the Committee on Small Body Nomenclature (CSBN) of the IAU. There is a possibility that the name could be rejected. Names only become official when they are published in the Minor Planet Circulars. CSBN condemns the pre-announcement of names, even if any such pre-announcement indicates that a name is only a proposed name. As such the selection committee cannot guarantee acceptance of the competition winner's proposed name.



Name Our Asteroid Competition
Application Form

Please fill in the form below. Fields marked with a '*' are compulsory.

✦ Your suggestion

Suggested asteroid name *	
Language of the name *	(check ✓) <input type="checkbox"/> Afrikaans <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> IsiNdebele <input type="checkbox"/> IsiXhosa <input type="checkbox"/> IsiZulu <input type="checkbox"/> Sepedi <input type="checkbox"/> Sesotho <input type="checkbox"/> Setswana <input type="checkbox"/> SiSwati <input type="checkbox"/> Tshivenda <input type="checkbox"/> Xitsonga
Reason for your name *	
Proposer's name *	(check ✓) <input type="checkbox"/> individual <input type="checkbox"/> group

✦ Contact details

Address *	
Province *	(check ✓) <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Cape <input type="checkbox"/> Free State <input type="checkbox"/> Gauteng <input type="checkbox"/> KwaZulu-Natal <input type="checkbox"/> Limpopo <input type="checkbox"/> Mpumalanga <input type="checkbox"/> North West <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cape <input type="checkbox"/> Western Cape
Phone *	
Email	
Alternative contact name and number *	
(Parent, teacher or legal guardian)	



Please send the above application form by the 11th Dec 2009 via any of the following:-

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