



17 March 2020

## Statement about International Astronomical Youth Camp 2020

Dear Participants and Friends of the IAYC,

It is with heavy hearts that we announce our decision to cancel the IAYC 2020.

Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we have to sacrifice something precious in order to protect something even more important. We believe this is one of those situations. After following the development of the COVID-19 pandemic and careful consideration of its implications, we have concluded that it is in the best interest of the camp and its participants not to proceed with the IAYC 2020. Although the summer is still months away, even at this stage we need to be confident that we can provide a safe and enjoyable experience to everyone. Sadly, this cannot be guaranteed under the current circumstances.

Although it makes a mark in the 50-year history of the IAYC, this setback will not extinguish our love for astronomy, science, and the international community that is the beating heart of the camp. There will be more mysteries to unravel, discoveries to be made, and bonds to be formed on the observation fields of IAYC 2021 and beyond. Until then, we ask for your understanding and we wish that you and your loved ones stay safe.

Never stop looking out for clear skies,

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