

1st CIRCULAR

IOAA-Jr 2026 TRAINING CAMP

28.12.2025

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you and your participants to a dedicated IOAA-Jr Training Camp, hosted in Załęcze Wielkie, Poland from 8th to 15th August 2026.

The event is organized by Almurkantarat, the Polish Astronomy Club. As a renowned organization established in 1983, we have over 40 years of experience in organizing camps, workshops, competitions (including the national Astronomy Olympiad for Juniors) and scientific meetings for young enthusiasts.

Camp overview:

During the camp, participants will have the opportunity to engage in various activities in Załęcze Wielkie and other locations. The syllabus and schedule will be developed in consultation with team leaders in advance to ensure the most fruitful learning experience for all students.

We aim to organize classes on various subjects, mock competitions and nighttime stellar observations. Team leaders will be expected to assist in the preparation and coordination of these activities. More details about the camp schedule will be announced in February.

We also plan other, non-astronomical activities to help participants get to know each other, develop friendships and enjoy their summer holidays together.

Eligibility Criteria:

The camp is intended for students who will participate in IOAA-Jr 2026. In early registration, we will be accepting only up to 5 participants from each country and at most 2 team leaders. The number of team leaders should not exceed half the number of participants.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is provided at the Polish Scout Base "Nadwarciański Gród", located within Załęcze Landscape Park, selected for its optimal night sky conditions. We have been organizing events at this location for several decades, allowing us to ensure safety and proper living conditions for all students.

Participants will stay in large, multi-person military-styled scout tents equipped with camp beds, mattresses, warm blankets, and pillows. Please note that bringing your own sleeping bag is required.

The camp utilizes sanitary facilities situated in close vicinity of the tents. All meals are se-

erved in the on-site dining hall, prepared by the center's staff. Activities are primarily conducted outdoors, though some sessions may take place in the center's dedicated classrooms.

Participation fees:

- **Participants:** Registration fee amounts to 1340 PLN (approx. 320 EUR) per student.
- **Team leaders:** Participation is free of charge for team leaders.
- **Observers:** Registration fee for observers is the same as for participants and equals 1340 PLN (approx. 320 EUR) per person.

There may be an additional charge for optional accommodation in the hotel rooms.

Pre-registration:

You can pre-register your team using the following Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/mRJ2KBwaB8jwGmJq5>.

The deadline for Pre-registration is 31st January 2026.

Please note that due to the limited capacity of the camp, we might be unable to invite all interested countries. Should the number of applications exceed available spots, places will be allocated by the order of registration.

All updates will be sent to the e-mail addresses provided in the pre-registration form. If you prefer not to complete the form but still wish to receive announcements, please contact us at ioaajr.camp@almukantarat.pl.

Contact Information:

The dedicated website with all necessary information and updates will be launched by the end of January. You can contact us via:

- e-mail: ioaajr.camp@almukantarat.pl
- phone: +48 532 343 560

You can also visit the webpage <https://almukantarat.pl/en/> for additional information about the organizer.

Finally, as we approach the New Year, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your teams. May it be a time of joy, reflection, and inspiration under the stars.

Ad gloriam astronomiae!

Maksymilian Wdowiarz-Bilski
Chair of the Almukantarat Astronomy Club