Yuri’s Night Celebration
12th April 2020

About Yuri’s Night

Yuri’s Night is a global celebration of humanity’s past, present, and future in space. Yuri’s Night parties and events are held around the world every April in commemoration of Yuri Gagarin becoming the first human to venture into space on April 12, 1961, and the inaugural launch of the first Space Shuttle on April 12, 1981.

Yuri’s Night events combine space-themed partying with education and outreach. These events can range from an all-night mix of techno and technology at a NASA Center, to a movie showing and stargazing at your local college, to a gathering of friends at a bar or barbecue.

In 2011, the 50th anniversary of human spaceflight, over 100,000 people attended 567 officially-recognized events in 75 countries on all 7 continents, while tens of thousands more watched the 12-hour live Yuri’s Night Global Webcast and participated online in the virtual world of Second Life.

Roots

The concept of Yuri’s Night was first conceived by Loretta Hidalgo Whitesides, George T. Whitesides, and Trish Garner during the Space Generation Forum at the UNISPACE III conference in 1999. The Vienna Declaration after UNISPACE III set up a new World Space Week “between 4 and 10 October for the yearly celebration at the international level.” This event was timed to commemorate the launch of Sputnik 1 on Oct 4 and the signing of the UN Outer Space Treaty on Oct 10. Wishing to specifically celebrate the human aspects of spaceflight, George and Loretta moved ahead with planning for the first Yuri’s Night event on April 12: a dual anniversary of human spaceflight achievements. In 2000, Yuri’s Night was announced as an event in LA scheduled for April 12, 2001. Friends and colleagues, including those from the Space Generation Forum, asked to host their own celebrations around the world at the same time. The World Space Party was born and continues to rock the planet today!

From 2001 until 2010, Yuri’s Night was a project of the Space Generation Advisory Council and run under the non-profit Space Generation Foundation in the United States. As of 2010 Yuri’s Night is an independent 501(c) (3) non-profit organization in the United States.

Mission

The mission of Yuri’s Night is to use the excitement and inspiration of space as a catalyst for educating and developing the next generation of explorers. We fulfill this mission through a commitment to:

- **Empowering leaders:** in making a difference, pursuing their dreams, and inspiring others to do the same.
- **Building communities:** working shoulder to shoulder on visionary projects, overcoming barriers and finding common ground.
- **Bridging cultures:** be they geographic, social or technical, we are all learning to speak each other’s languages.
• **Encouraging science literacy:** bringing people hands-on experiences and passionate storytelling to explore their physical world and nurture their love of learning.

• **Promoting a sustainable and peaceful future:** sharing “the Overview Effect” with all people, inspiring them to take ownership of our home planet and the future of humanity.

### 3 Steps to Planning a Yuri’s Night Event

The most asked question we get when people learn about Yuri’s Night is: “How do I set up my own event?” Well, to help, we have created a three step process to get you thinking about how to host a great event.

#### Step 1 – What kind of event will it be?

- A private party with people in your house during the lockdown.
- An educational or celebratory event online by inviting everyone to come together from their places through online platforms.

#### Step 2 – What date and location will you use?

While the official Yuri’s Night is April 12th, Yuri’s Night events can take place anytime around this date. Want to host it on a Friday night? Sunday brunch? Thursday afternoon at your place? Anything is fine – as long as it is full of space spirit!

#### Step 3 – What activities will you do at your event?

You can do anything at a Yuri’s Night event – the idea is to have fun and celebrate the achievements of humanity in space exploration. Past event hosts have organized activities like...

- a space movie night
- a space-themed drinks, and fun music at your place.
- a dance event with a DJ to have a night of futuristic space-themed dancing at the rooftop and ask everyone at your location to do the same at their place.

Share your contribution and experience with us and the world on various social media platforms using various hashtags.

Facebook - #GAM2020 #SPACEIndia, @SPACEIndiaEdu, @(awb_org), @yurisnight

Instagram - #GAM2020, #SPACEIndia, @space_india, @(awb_org), @yurisnight

Twitter - #GAM2020, #SPACEIndia, @spacian, @(awb_org), @yurisnight