

Viaje al Universo

Evaluation Report



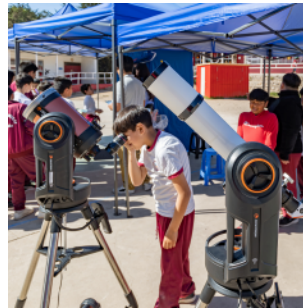
Viaje al Universo, a core education program of U.S. National Science Foundation NOIRLab, was held from 21 October to 25 October 2024 and brought astronomers, scientists, engineers and staff from NOIRLab into the local classrooms of La Serena and Vicuña. Students were engaged in astronomical activities that supported the Chilean science curriculum as they learned about the wonders of the Universe. Some activities included observing with solar telescopes, dark sky awareness, Solar System exploration, the life cycle of stars and galaxies, robotics, and much more.



Evaluating the Impact of the Program

Viaje is evaluated to assess whether the ambassadors (STEM professionals) received the necessary support and resources to engage successfully with students. The evaluations administered to teachers measured the overall impact of the program in their classrooms. The results are used to provide insight into areas for improvement in future years.

Viaje al Universo 2024 Deliverables



Community Engagement

Foster connections with NOIRLab and students while building curiosity about astronomy. *Viaje* brought 26 STEM professionals into classrooms to help students gain a deeper understanding of the Universe and STEM fields.



Developing Interest in Science

Broaden students' understanding of STEM career opportunities and provide them with resources to explore diverse pathways. *Viaje* 2024 featured career panels of astronomers and engineers to expose students to real-world and local STEM professions.



Dark Sky Awareness

Increase awareness of light pollution and the importance of dark skies to the local communities. This year's program featured an activity called AstroBox which is an immersive experience for participants to witness how light pollution obscures our view of the night sky. This activity was provided by Chile's Dark Skies Protection Outreach group.

Viaje 2024 Snapshot



5
schools



26
volunteers



41
activities



80
teachers



1300
students

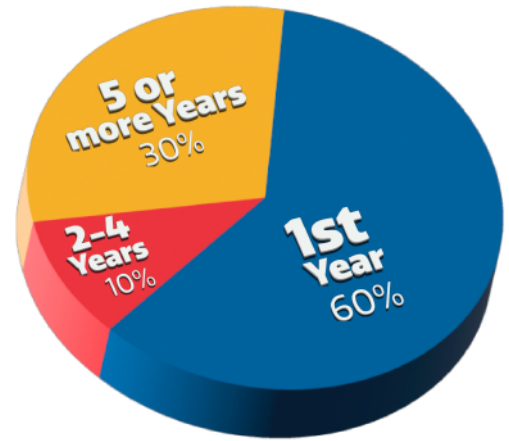
Ambassador Results

Twenty-six ambassadors participated in *Viaje al Universo* 2024 by holding a session or presenting an activity about the Universe. Ten of the 26 ambassadors provided feedback about their *Viaje* experience.

Creating and Continuing Relationships

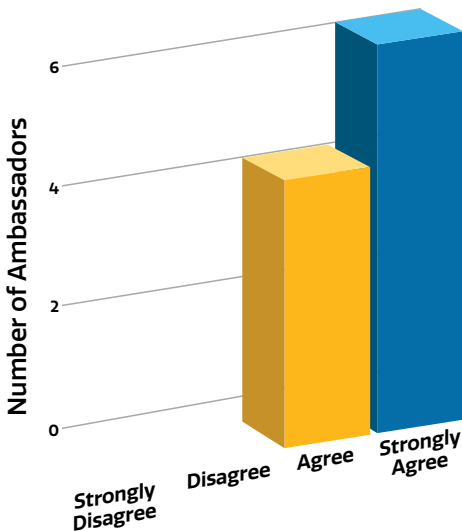
Would you like to participate again next year?

100% Yes



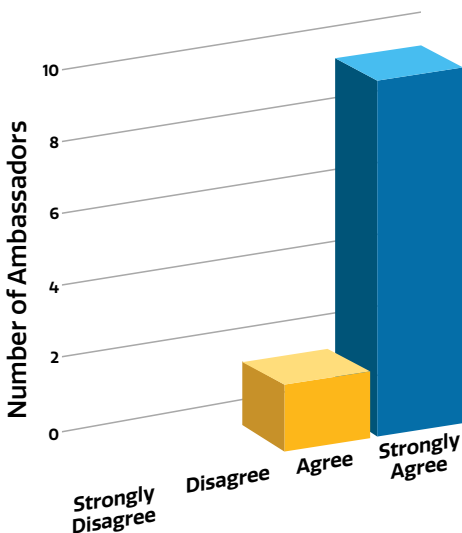
Developing Interest in Science

Students Asked Relevant Questions



Viaje Team Support

I Felt Supported by the *Viaje* Team



Teacher Results

Eighty teachers signed up for *Viaje al Universo* 2024 to engage their classes with astronomers and engineers while learning about the Universe. Of the 80 teachers who participated in *Viaje*, four teachers provided feedback representing different schools and grade levels from 6th grade to 12th grade.

Creating and Continuing Relationships

When asked if their school has participated in *Viaje* in the past, all teachers said yes with most indicating that last year was their first year.

Would you like to participate again next year?

Yes = 100%

"Congratulations to the presenter for his good spirit of captivating the students with his story."

— 6th/7th Grade Teacher

Developing Interest in Science

Viaje helps your students understand other cultures and their relationship to astronomy.

Strongly Agree = 100% 👍

Viaje helps your students develop positive attitudes toward STEM careers.

Strongly Agree = 100% 👍

The presentation was appropriate for the course level (the content supported student understanding).

Strongly Agree = 100% 👍

Recommendations for the future of *Viaje al Universo*?

When asked what the teachers would like to see more of in future programs, responses included adding a planetarium experience, visiting the observatories, and incorporating families to create an astronomical culture in the region. Other suggestions included having *Viaje* stretch across more days, expanding the audience, and making the workshops more extensive.