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## AstroCamper Making Comets

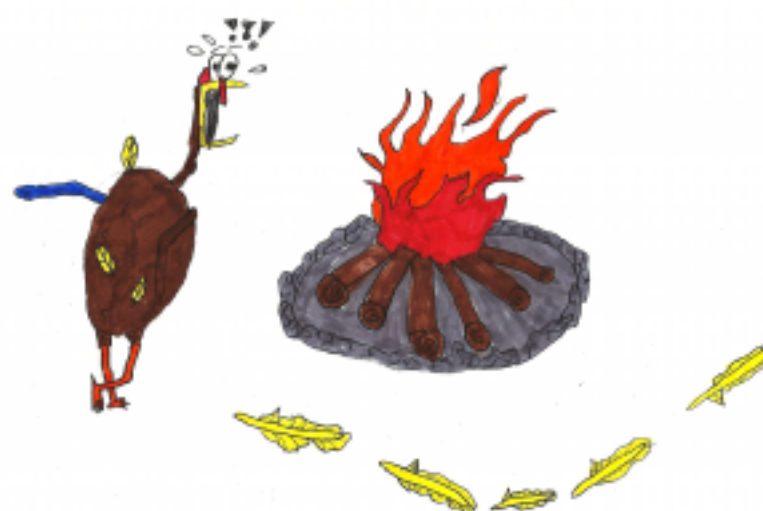
*DaCota Schrader recalls his AstroCamp experience and prepares for Comet ISON's encounter with the sun on Thanksgiving Day 2013. He writes:*

Hello, I'm DaCota Schrader.

My experience of [2011 and 2012](#) was great. Astro Camp is held in Dave's House. I made crafts and star-charts. The teachers taught us how to find planets out of our solar system.

At night around 10:00 me and fellow astrocampers went to Dave's House to stargaze. In my telescope I spotted messier objects and even parts of the Milky Way. I stayed up until about 1 every night. My last craft was a homemade telescope. I even spotted a star cluster in DAYLIGHT (a.k.a. the American flag). So my experience at astrocamp was great. Just can't wait until next year.

Since Astro Camp I joined MAS ([Michiana Astronomical Society](#)). I gave a presentation on the History of Comets at a MAS meeting. I gave the same presentation at my old elementary school for their [space night](#). Mr. Bueter and I also made [dry ice comets](#) for the children.



I also helped to design the ISON picture for the local [Comet Festival](#) for ISON. [My picture](#) describes ISON. A turkey is the comet as it is circling a campfire which represent the sun. His feathers are falling off and that represents the dust tail and the left wing is blue and that is the ion tail.

I really enjoyed Astro camp. The wonderful teachers taught me a plethora of space knowledge.

---DaCota Schrader

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