Windowpane Observatory





Dear Desiree,

Congratulations on having a galaxy named after you!

Your galaxy, known by astronomers as NGC 7721, is located in the constellation Aquarius. Its coordinates on the celestial grid are 23h 38' 08" of Right Ascension and -06° 31' 04" of Declination. Give these coordinates to any observatory and they can locate **Galaxy Desiree Kyleigh Quinn** for you.

Although you cannot see your galaxy with the naked eye, you can show people where it is in the sky. We have included in your package a celestial star chart so that you can easily locate your galaxy in the night sky. Your galaxy is visible in the Fall and Winter seasons.

Your galaxy is a Sc type, which means that it's a spiral galaxy like our own Milky Way. Its size is 3.4 by 1.5 arc minutes in the telescope. Its brightness is 11th magnitude. It contains at least 100 billion stars, although no one has counted them yet.

Your galaxy is an island universe. In other words, it is a microcosm of what's happening in the universe at large. Did you know that a mini big bang happens in your galaxy from time to time? When a star explodes in your galaxy sometimes it becomes a supernova. This implosion/explosion duplicates the primal forces of the space-time continuum that occurred when the whole universe was formed. If a supernova is discovered in your galaxy, the largest telescopes on planet earth will turn towards your galaxy. It will be front-page astronomical news!

Your galaxy may have a black hole at its center. A black hole is a gravitational well so powerful that even light can't escape. This means astronomers can't actually see black holes but suspect their existence by the behavior of celestial objects near them.

If you would like to learn more about galaxies or astronomy, we recommend the book *Galaxies* by Timothy Ferris, published by the Sierra Club. Also, don't forget to visit our web site, www.wpo.net. It is filled with fascinating information about astronomy. Most importantly, our web site has archived your galaxy in our Intergalactic Galaxy Registry, which will document this information for all beings and for all time.

You now have a place in the universe. A galaxy named after you. Who knows, our future generations may visit there in some future time.

Wishing you clear skies!

Wm. I. Georgevich

Director, Windowpane Observatory