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Blog

Michiana Astronomical Society Deemed a 501(c)(3) Public Charity

Posted by admin on September 17, 2014



Hooray, we got a [letter](#) from the IRS! While the Internal Revenue Service does not always inspire joy, [Michiana Astronomical Society Inc. \(MAS\)](#) received confirmation that it is recognized by the IRS as a public charity with tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3). Contributions to MAS are tax deductible.

MAS is [celebrating its 40th year](#) of bringing astronomical highlights to its members and the greater community alike, including telescope observing, speakers, star parties, AstroCamp, dark skies awareness, telescope clinics, and events around celestial phenomena. I invite you to [contact me](#) to discuss how your participation and support can benefit science outreach in the region.

Michiana Astronomical Society Inc. became incorporated and applied for the new tax status with the support of Elizabeth Scarola of the Notre Dame Law Clinic. Scarola patiently guided MAS President Chuck Bueter and MAS Treasurer Dan Smith through the IRS application process, making the daunting task significantly easier.



The confirmation letter from the IRS states:

...We have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code...This letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status...

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed [Public Charity Status: 509 (a)(2)] in the heading of this letter.

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