



# Abrams Planetarium Group Visit Programs

Reservations Telephone: (517) 355-4676

Public Programming Information: 355-4672

Current Sky Information: 332-STAR

Website: <http://www.pa.msu.edu/abrams>

Abrams Planetarium offers a variety of single-visit instructional programs dealing with astronomical topics for a variety of age groups. Multiple-visit sequences can also be arranged for groups desiring a more classroom-integrated experience. Brief descriptions of our offerings are included below. If you have specific needs, give us a call; we may be able to accommodate them. We look forward to your visit to the MSU planetarium.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

### Live Presentations

Each lasts approximately 1 hour and is tailored for the individual grade level.

#### *The Night Sky*

Grades K and up

An introduction to the sky. All of the bright planets and most of the brightest stars and prominent constellations currently visible are shown. Student interaction will be used to enhance learning.

#### *The Sun's Family*

Grades K-5

Solar system information is presented using models, photos, and student interaction. Students learn to find the bright planets in the current sky.

#### *Moonbeams*

Grades 2-5

After watching the moon in the sky, students will look for ways to explain the changes observed. Lunar folklore and moon travel also will be discussed.

#### *Preschool Sky*

Ages 4-5 years

Basic awareness of the day and night sky are investigated with the help of models, stories, and the planetarium projector. Due to the special characteristics of this age group, length will vary between 30 and 55 minutes.

### Grades K- 5 Recorded Shows

Each is followed by a live presentation of the current evening sky.

#### *In My Backyard*

Preschool-1

Children television personality Fred Penner writes and narrates this curious tour of the natural wonders found close to home and in the night sky.

#### *The Little Star That Could*

Grades K-3

Join Little Star as he explores the universe and discovers the importance of being ordinary.

#### *Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*

Grades K-3

Two children build a rocket and take an imaginary trip through the solar system with the help of a special guide.

#### *Follow the Drinking Gourd*

Grades 2-5

The story of how a slave family escaped to freedom using the Underground Railroad and the stars of the Drinking Gourd (The Big Dipper).

#### *Sol and Company*

Preschool-2

Come along with our sun, Sol, and his friend Astro Nomy as they take a trip through the solar system. Along the way, they discover what makes each planet special.

#### *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast*

Grades K-3

Join Rusty as he leads the rookie rockets on a tour of the solar system.

#### *Larry Cat in Space*

Grades 1-4

Follow the adventures of Larry Cat as he stows away aboard a rocket to the Moon.

#### *The Planet Patrol*

Grades 3-5

Join Sam Snork, P.I. (Planetary Investigator), and his sidekick Elmo as they try to locate the source of a strange signal coming from one of the planets.

#### *WSKY*

Grade 5

Produced in the format of a fictitious top 40's radio station. All topics and songs have an astronomical theme.

### Grades 6 and Up Recorded Shows

Each is followed by a live presentation of the current evening sky.

#### *WSKY*

Grades 6 and up

Produced in the format of a fictitious top 40's radio station. All topics and songs have an astronomical theme.

#### *Gateway to Infinity*

Grades 6 and up

James Earl Jones narrates this tour of the universe. Provides a fine summary of the kinds of objects found in the universe, from planets to galaxies to supernovae.

#### *Milky Way Legacy*

Grades 6 and up

Exploration of our galaxy and the conditions that permit life to evolve.

#### *From Stardust to Life*

Grades 8 and up

This multidisciplinary journey follows the history of life from the Big Bang to DNA. Ideal for general science, biology, or astronomy class.

#### *Galaxies*

Grades 8 and up

This show takes a close look at the Milky Way galaxy and then sets sail for the galaxies beyond.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## PROGRAM TIMES

Programs are usually scheduled on Tuesdays through Fridays at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. The planetarium program requires approximately one hour, plus 15 minutes for check-in, restroom use, etc. Groups arriving late may not be admitted.

## ADMISSION FEES

The cost for the single lesson is \$2.00 per student. For a 2-lesson sequence the fee is \$3.50 per student. For the entire 3-lesson sequence the fee is \$5.00 per student. Evening and weekend rates are higher and subject to staff availability. Call for further information. One supervising adult is admitted free with every 5 students. Other adults are welcome to attend at the student admission rate.

## RESERVATIONS

For group reservations or additional information call the planetarium at (517) 355-4676 on a weekday, 8:00 a.m. to noon or 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. only. Please make reservations by telephone rather than mail. It is best to make reservations at least one month in advance. For a better selection of dates try to plan your visit for sometime other than the "spring rush." Reservations made by telephone are confirmed by mail if time permits. Each lesson is adapted to the individual grade level, so only adjacent grade levels may take a specific lesson at the same time.

Note: Groups of less than twenty students will be required to consolidate with another group or pay a \$40 minimum. This also means larger groups cannot be guaranteed a private showing.

## PARKING

**School buses may park free on weekdays, directly in front of the planetarium.** Car parking is difficult during weekday hours. Public lots are indicated on the map below by a "P" in a shaded box. If you have any questions, consult with the planetarium staff.

