



Program Length

45 minutes

Grades

6-12

Summary

An informal backyard stargazing session, using live narration and computer imagery to illustrate stars, constellations, planets, and other objects of interest visible during the current season. In many ways, this is the “original” planetarium show.

This program is subject to limited availability.

Format

This program is entirely live, making each presentation a unique experience. An expert sky guide will interact with students, showing off highlights of the current night sky and explaining the basic concepts behind what we can see from our own backyards. Due to the live nature of this show it is highly customizable. If students wish to learn more about a particular subject, they need only ask.

Concepts Covered

The night sky is full of interesting patterns and objects.

The Big Dipper, Little Dipper, and the North Star (Polaris) are a good starting point for beginning stargazers.

Locating other constellations in the sky can be a fun and enriching activity.

The planets move in our sky in relation to the stars; students will learn about those that are currently visible.

Students will learn about any other special occurrences in the sky (comets, upcoming meteor showers, recent discoveries, etc.)

Curriculum Links

This planetarium show is designed to fit into the Curriculum standards of the State of Michigan. The following links are discussed during a typical

V. Using Earth Science Knowledge

(ES) Solar System, Galaxy, and Universe

1. Compare and contrast the characteristics of the sun, moon, and earth.
2. Describe the motion of the earth around the sun and the moon around the earth