Santa Fe Community College Planetarium

Kids' Corner

Welcome
Since opening to the public on May 6, 1995, the Planetarium at Santa Fe Community College has been committed to bringing entertaining and informative astronomical programming to northern New Mexicans of every age. Programs range from scientific documentaries to science fiction stories filled with science facts to cultural programs that include Native American and Chinese sky lore. Each has a goal of inspiring scientific thought and the imagination or the viewer to just look up and marvel at our universe and our place in it.
The Spitz 512 star projector shows 2354 stars as you would see them from anywhere in the world. An additional 12 slide projectors, a video projector which accepts tape, laser disk and PC inputs and several special effects projectors can transport the audience to anywhere in the universe.

School Programming
Bring the universe to your students with a variety of programs. Along with star stories from around the world and tours of the night sky, SFCC offers age-appropriate presentations on the solar system, stars and galaxies. Our school programming is available to all the children in New Mexico. The Planetarium holds groups of up to 75 children and adults.

Show Times
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., or other times by special arrangement. Closed Dec. 15- Jan. 5. All Planetarium shows are scheduled for 60 minutes and include a presentation of the current night sky and time for questions.

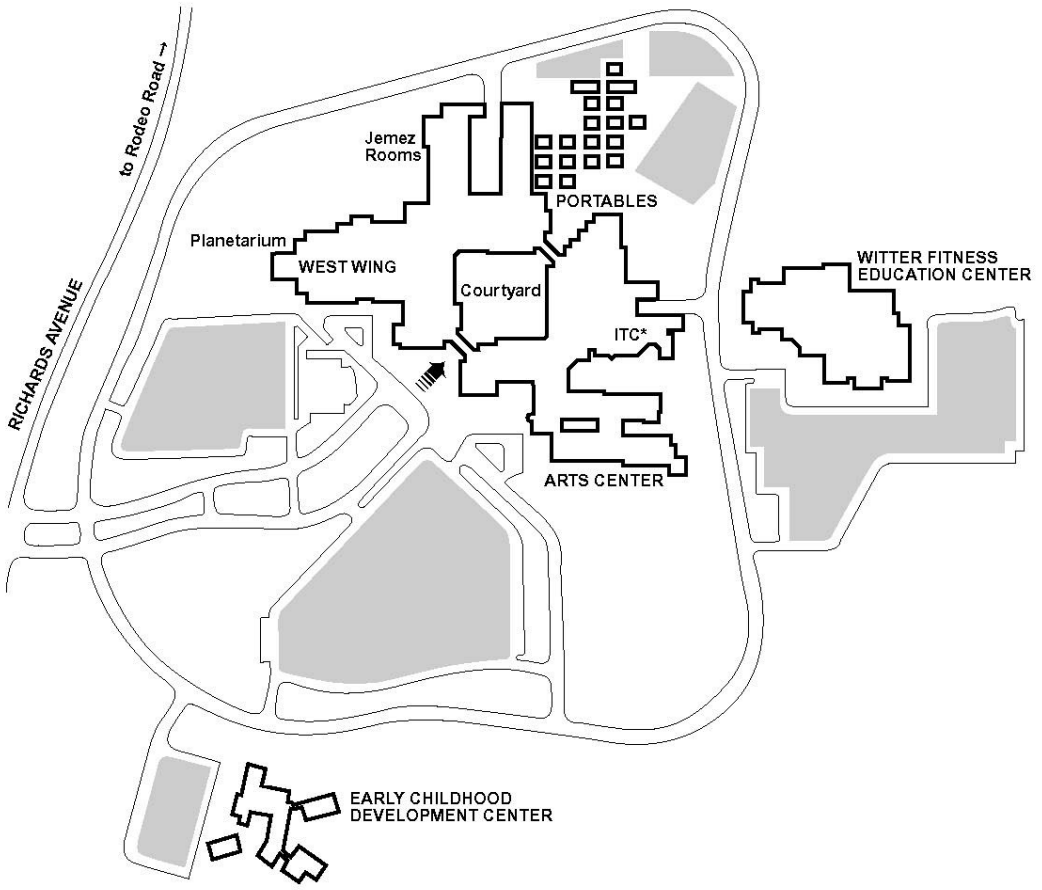
Reservations
Contact us through the Internet at WWW.SFCCNM.EDU/PLANETARIUM to request the program of your choice and make the required reservations. You may also contact us at (505) 428-1677. Shows are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, so please have two alternate times in mind when you reserve. All reservations are tentative until the Planetarium receives a signed confirmation form and a check fee by return mail. If you would prefer, you can send a MasterCard or Visa number to us by FAX at 428-1289 or by e-mail through the website link.

Group Fees
School shows are only $35 each. The fee must be submitted with the confirmation letter. A reservation is not confirmed until we receive the fee for the show. The fee will be kept if your group cancels its reservation without 24 hours notice. Unforeseen circumstances will be taken into consideration.

Chaperons
A minimum of one adult chaperon is required for every 10 students

Conduct
Teachers and chaperons are responsible for their students' conduct while on the premises of SFCC. Absolutely no chewing gum, food or drinks are allowed in the Planetarium. We also must ask that there be no loud talking while on campus; classes are in session and our business offices are open.

Where the Stars Are



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PARKING

BUILDINGS

ENTRANCE TO MAIN BUILDING

* INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

SFCC

SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

School Programs

1. The Sky Tonight
Find out what's up in the current night sky. This flexible presentation can be geared to any age group and can include legends about constellations as well as slides of planets, nebulae and galaxies that are currently visible in the night sky.

2. Wonderful Sky
Recorded Sesame Street R characters join a live facilitator to get children to look up and enjoy the many wonders in the sky. Big Bird, Grover, Oscar, Bert and Ernie all introduce children to clouds, rainbows, phases of the moon, shooting stars, planets and stars.

3. In My Back Yard
Nickelodeon's Fred Penner introduces youngsters to the wonders they can find in their own back yards, such as the changing of the seasons, rainbows, the Big Dipper, planets, meteors and the moon. Original music and songs make this a lively presentation. A teacher's guide with hands-on activities for children ages 4-7 is available upon request.

4. Our Place in Space
Explore what causes day and night; the importance of our star, the sun; and the beauty of the constellations, all while helping exotic animals complete a cosmic crossword puzzle.

5. Rusty Rocket's Last Blast
Retiring rocket commander Rusty Rocket takes a class of rookies along on his last mission through the solar system, where they explore basic rocket physics, Earth's gravity and the immense distances involved in space travel.

6. Follow the Drinking Gourd
Based on Jeannette Winter's book by the same name, this story shows how a slave family escaped from the South by using the Drinking Gourd (the Big Dipper) as a guide. This program introduces the cyclical changes visible in the sky and explains how they were used as a compass and calendar.

7. Moonwitch
Diana who fears she is being followed by the full moon, learns about the moon's phases, its dark side, earthshine and the different faces that other cultures see in the moon. This program includes a participatory demonstration of moon phases; the planetarium demonstrates the moon phases for the current month.

8. Partnership Earth
The Earth tells her own story, from the beginning. Learn about the formation of the solar system, how things have evolved over the last 5 billion years, and the special partnership that Earth has with the life on her surface.

9. Lifestyles of the Stars
A wacky guide leads this recorded tour of the stars' "homes". Students learn about stellar evolution as they visit a star nursery, a red dwarf, a blue/white giant, a red supergiant and an average yellow star. Alive introduction to the current night sky concludes the program.

10. WSKY: Radio Station of the Stars
A takeoff on a morning radio show, this program includes interplanetary traffic and weather report, cosmic hits and questions for Dr. Cosmos. Students are encouraged to bring one question on a 3 x 5 index card (be sure they include their name and school) Some questions will be answered after the show; written responses will be sent for others.

11. Journey to the Planets
This program takes a look at NASA's 40+ years of planetary exploration, from the Mariner probes of the early 1960s to Cassini-Huygens and beyond.

12. Planet Patrol: The Solar System Stakeout
Join planetary investigator Sam Snork and his assistant, Elmo Sneeze, as they search our solar system for the source of some unusual transmissions. Find out which planets have a solid surface, which are gas giants and which could support life.

13. Daughter of the Stars
Enjoy sky legends from Native North Americans, including stories about how the sun and moon got into the sky, the Great Bear, the Milky Way and the many names of the moon. Live introductions to each story include demonstrations and "modern" explanations for some of the phenomena that are subjects of the stories.

14. Echoes of the Night
Abenaki storyteller Gerard Tsonakwa shares legends of the night sky from his own people (in Quebec and Vermont) as well as from the Southwest Stories include how coyote put the stars in the sky, the Seven Sisters and the Great Bear.

15. The Cowboy Astronomer
Cowboy poet and humorist Baxter Black explores the night sky out on the range. This prerecorded presentation includes star tales, some practical observations, and the wonder that lies beyond the unaided eye.

16. The Great Dinosaur Caper
Detective Tyrone Rex is on the case to find out what happened to the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Was their mysterious disappearance a result of cosmic "murder"? And who/what was the extraterrestrial culprit?

17. Stardust
Launched in 1999, Stardust is the first U.S mission to gather extraterrestrial material from beyond the moon Find out how the mission plans to collect comet dust and volatile samples during a close encounter with comet Wild 2 in January 2004.

18. Constellations Tonight
Each student receives a simplified chart of the current night sky and learns how to use it during the first half of the program. When the lights go down, students explore the stars projected onto the planetarium dome and use the tricks they learned to find constellations. Students keep the charts to use in their own backyards.

19. Spirits From the Sky
This program explores the astronomical traditions of the Skidi band of the Pawnee. Native American Nation. The Pawnee culture was built upon observations of the planets and stars, which formed the basis of their annual cycle of rebirth and renewal. "Spirits From the Sky" also depicts the Pawnee creation legend, as retold by tribal elders.

20. The Explorers
Find out how early mariners used the stars to find their way around the world and what inventions were needed to make celestial navigation practical.

21. Cosmic Catastrophes
In this sci-fi story, traveling aliens review Earth's cosmic history, discuss some of the catastrophic events in its past and rate its future. After the program, students can examine meteorites from around the world.

22. Magellan: Report from Venus
This documentary of one of NASA's most successful missions summarizes the robotic, explorations of our neighbor, Venus. Magellan was the first to create a detailed radar map of the surface and uncover geologic processes that are shaping its scorched surface.

23. The Mars Show
Patrick Stewart narrates this account of the Red Planet, which hasinspired both science fiction and scientific exploration. The recorded program is followed by a live update with information about the Mars Pathfinder, Global Surveyor, and Odyssey missions.

24. The Voyager Encounters
Patrick Stewart narrates this documentary of the Voyager 1 and 2 encounters with the gas giant planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and their moons. Alive update on discoveries from the Galileo spacecraft follows the prerecorded program.

25. Comets Are Coming!
Inspired by the apparitions of Comet Hyakutake in, 1996 and Comet Hale-Bopp in 1997, this program reviews the history of observing comets, interviews some modern comet hunters and looks at the danger of comets hitting planets.

26. Just Imagine
Kids who are always asking "What if ..?" will get some answers guaranteed to tickle their imaginations. Just imagine superheroes filling a starry sky, the Earth without the moon, or what the last days of the universe might be like.

27. The Light-Hearted Astronomer
Here's a down-home introduction to backyard astronomy. Based on Ken Fulton's book by the same name, this program entertains while it teaches, amuses while it inspires, and encourages everyone to start looking up.

28. Worlds in Motion
From the motions of the atoms that make up their bodies to the orbits of planets and the expansion of the universe, students find out how fast they're moving and where we're all headed.

29. More than Meets the Eye
Discover planets, double stars, planetary nebulae, supernovae remnants, galaxies and other wonders invisible to the unaided eye. Compare the view through binoculars and telescopes to astrophotos from major observatories Inspire students to explore the night sky from their own back yards.

30. Reasons for the Seasons
Come see what planetarium projectors do best! Explore the motions of the Earth and how they cause the rising, noontime and setting positions, of the sun to change throughout the year. A brief introduction to each season's night sky is included.

31. Navajo Nights
Written by University of Arizona anthropologist Trudy Griffin-Pierce, this program explores the Navajo, or Dine, relationship to the natural world through their emergence and creation myths, their calendar and their definition of the four times of day.

32. Stars of Jade
The ancient Chinese divided the sky into five palaces, each with seven mansions. Find the Central Mansion, the Blue Dragon, the Scarlet Phoenix, the White Tiger and the Black Tortoise and discover how ancient Chinese observations have been used to solve modern astronomical puzzles.

33. Hubble Vision
This program for the serious science student starts with the 1990 launch and deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope and reports on its first four years of discoveries. Time permitting, recent images from HST will be shared and explained.

34. Light Years from Andromeda
Follow a beam of light from the Andromeda galaxy across 2 million light years of space while life on Earth evolves to a point where it can question and investigate the origins of that light.

35. Ptolemy and His Astronomy
In 140 AD, Ptolemy published a view of the universe that persisted for over 1400 years. Delve into ancient Greek history and see the developments of over 500 years of science that led him to his beliefs.

36. Stars and Stellar Evolution
The life cycle of stars from birth where stars come from and how they form, through middle age and stability, and into death. A look at white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes, and how the death of a star is.

37. Navigating with Lewis and Clark
How did the Corps of Discovery know where they were, when they were in the middle of nowhere? Learn how Lewis and Clark used the positions of the sun and other celestial objects to determine their latitude and longhide along the Missouri River. "Navigating with Lewis and Clark" combines a travelogue with the astronomy used by these two great explorers, as written in their journals.

38. Cosmology: Dark Matter and Galactic Evolution
How much matter does the known universe contain and how does the amount and kind of matter impact theories of the universe.
Billions of stars, subject to interactive forces, form our own galaxy. From the Milky Way to galaxies detected by the Hubble telescope, the question remains the same: How do these celestial bodies evolve?

39. Einstein’s Universe: Black Holes and Gravitational Waves
Experience these enigmatic objects and products of evolution that challenge our imagination, knowledge and reality

40. Prospecting the Planets

For all their splendor, planets have been urgent targets for astronomers, geologists and biologists. Space missions continue in the grandest tradition of human endeavor –an expedition to see “what’s out there”- explorations on a journey fraught with dangers, robotic probes successfully opened a new frontier; the worlds of the outer solar system.

41. Archeoastronomy

The first people to come to North America may have begun their journey more than 50,000 years ago. Many cultures in this continent and around the world left us a legacy of monuments, myths and stories. Join us to learn what Archeoastronomy offers to this modern world.

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School Programs

	Program	All ages	Preschool	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1	The Sky Tonight															
2	Wonderful Sky															
3	In My Back Yard															
4	Our Place in Space															
5	Rusty Rocket's Last Blast															
6	Follow the Drinking Gourd															
7	Moonwitch															
8	Partnership Earth															
9	Lifestyles of the Stars															
10	WSKY: Radio Station of the Stars															
11	Journey to the Planets															
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39	Einstein's Universe: Black Holes and Gravitational Waves															
40	Prospecting the Planets															
41	Archeoastronomy															

For more information about the programs and reservations, visit us at:

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