



Lake Afton Public Observatory

FOR: Immediate Release

FROM: Lake Afton Public Observatory
WSU Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education
Robert Henry (316) 978-3991 or Greg Novacek, (316) 978-3854

DATE: August 25, 2014

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Celebrating the Moon on Grandparents Day Weekend

The Lake Afton Public Observatory will be celebrating two special events the first weekend in September. The Observatory celebrates Grandparents Day Weekend on Friday and Saturday evening, September 5 and 6. In addition, on Saturday, September 6, they will also celebrate International Observe the Moon Night. For both events, the Observatory will present the program, *Apollo to the Moon*, from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Observatory visitors will get to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the first Moon landing by observing some of the six Apollo landing areas through the Observatory's big telescope. Then they get to observe Saturn and speculate what a trip to the outer reaches of our solar system might be like.

Grandparents Day Weekend

Many Grandparents remember the thrill and excitement of watching the first manned landing on the Moon so help rekindle their excitement by bringing them to the Lake Afton Public Observatory for Grandparents day Weekend. And, here's the best part: a grandparent gets in for free when accompanied by a paying grandchild. (Limit of one free grandparent admission for each grandchild paying regular admission.)

International Observe the Moon Night

The Lake Afton Public Observatory in conjunction with the Kansas Astronomical Observers (KAO) is also celebrating International Observe the Moon Night on Saturday, September 6. So grab a friend and come out to the Observatory to get acquainted with our nearest celestial neighbor. As an incentive, each person that can give us an example of an interesting fact or event related to the Moon gets \$2.00 off their regular admission. Examples of Moon facts can be found on the Observatory's website at webs.wichita.edu/lapo.

In addition to the program and exhibits inside the Observatory, KAO members will have some of their telescopes set up on the outdoor observing pad north of the Observatory building. Visitors are encouraged to look through their telescopes to learn even more about the Moon. Observatory admission charges apply only if you wish to come inside the Observatory building to view the exhibits and look through the big telescope.

The Lake Afton Public Observatory has numerous exhibits that complement their observing programs. Learn about the amazing but little-known women in astronomy and their achievements. Discover what astronomers have learned from all those beautiful pictures that the Hubble Space Telescope took. Learn interesting facts about the Apollo missions to the

Office:
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0032

Program Information:
(316) WSU-STAR
Internet:

Observatory:
20 mi. SW of downtown Wichita
on MacArthur Rd. at 247th St. W.

Moon. Find out all about the life cycle of stars. Other exhibits show you how to make a telescope, or test your astronomy knowledge to launch a Space Shuttle. You can also use small telescopes and binoculars outside to observe astronomical objects on your own.

During the month of September the Lake Afton Public Observatory is open to the public every Friday and Saturday evening from 8:00 pm until 10:00 p.m. The Observatory is located just 20 miles southwest of downtown Wichita on MacArthur Road at 247th Street West in Lake Afton County Park. Regular admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12; children under 6 are admitted free. A special family rate allows 2 parents and their immediate minor children or grandchildren to get in for just \$15.00. Current programs and times along with events taking place in the sky are available in a recorded message by calling WSU-STAR (316-978-7827) or online by visiting our website at webs.wichita.edu/lapo. You can also “friend” the Lake Afton Public Observatory on Facebook.

The Lake Afton Public Observatory is operated by the Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education, a part of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Science at Wichita State University.

--- XXX ---