



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: June 2, 2014

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Special Father's Day Weekend at the Observatory

Bring your Dad out to the Lake Afton Public Observatory so he can look through a big telescope at the mysterious red planet, Mars. Dad (or Granddad) will get in FREE for the program, *Celestial Favorites*, when accompanied by a paying child. *Celestial Favorites* will be presented from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings, June 13th and 14th. During the program Dad will have the opportunity to look at Mars, Saturn, a giant cluster of stars and a "nearby" galaxy. He will also get to cast his vote for one additional object to be observed at the end of the program.

The observatory's exhibit area gives visitors an opportunity to make a telescope, discover properties of light, explore interesting features on Mars, look at rocks from space, and go on a scavenger hunt through the solar system. Outside, there are small telescopes and binoculars available for visitors to use to find objects in the night sky for themselves.

The Observatory is located about 20 miles southwest of downtown Wichita on MacArthur Road at 247th Street West in Lake Afton County Park. Admission is just \$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 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 (978-7827) or online by visiting our website at webs.wichita.edu/lapo.

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.