



Lake Afton Public Observatory

FOR: Immediate Release

FROM: Lake Afton Public Observatory
WSU Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education
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DATE: April 28, 2015

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Big, Bigger, Biggest Mother's Day Weekend

Give your mom, or grandma, a free out of this world experience this Mother's day by taking her to the Lake Afton Public Observatory. There she will have a chance to look through the 16-inch telescope at: Jupiter which is 10 times bigger than Earth; a red giant star that is over 20 times bigger than our sun; a cluster of a half a million stars; and a distant galaxy with over 200 billion stars during the program *Big, Bigger, Biggest*. During the Observatory's Mothers' Day Weekend special (Friday, May 8th and Saturday the 9th), mom or grandma receives free admission if they are accompanied by a paying child. As visitors view these objects, the Observatory staff will discuss their sizes to give everyone a better perspective on just how small Earth is relative to these objects. "*Big, Bigger, Biggest*" will be presented from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m.

In addition to viewing objects through the telescope, the observatory's exhibits give visitors an opportunity to make a telescope, explore the properties of light, examine some of the wondrous features of the Moon and Venus, discover some of the amazing achievements that the Hubble Space Telescope has accomplished over the past 25 years, or build and launch a space shuttle by answering astronomy questions. Outside, there are also 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 to the Observatory is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children ages 6-12; children under 6 are admitted free. The Observatory is open Friday and Saturday evenings from 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. from May 1st through August 31st (with the exception of Saturday, July 4th). Current programs and times and events taking place in the sky are available on our website at <http://webs.wichita.edu/lapo> or in a recorded message by calling WSU-STAR (316-978-7827).

Office:
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0032
(316) 978-3191

Program Information:
(316) WSU-STAR
Internet:
webs.wichita.edu/lapo

Observatory:
20 mi. SW of downtown Wichita
on MacArthur Rd. at 247th St. W.
(316) 794-8995

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.

