



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 26, 2013

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Grandparents Deserve a Milky Way

We're not talking about a candy bar here ... we're talking about our galaxy! Bring Your Grandparents to the Lake Afton Public Observatory for Grandparents Weekend. On Friday and Saturday evenings, September 6 and 7 the Observatory will present the program, *Exploring the Milky Way*, from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm. During this program Observatory visitors will get to investigate some of the wondrous objects found in our Milky Way galaxy such as a gas giant planet in our solar system; a multiple star system; clouds of interstellar gas and dust; clusters of stars; and a nearby spiral galaxy much like the Milky Way. The best part is that a grandparent gets in for free when accompanied by a paying grandchild. (Limit of one free grandparent admission for each paying grandchild.)

The Observatory also has numerous exhibits to complement the observing programs. Try to understand the staggering distances in space or learn more about the fascinating and beautiful objects found in the Milky Way galaxy. Find out just how "empty" our solar system really is in our Wichita-sized scale model, and choose your favorite famous astronomer. At other exhibits you can make a telescope, explore properties of light, and use a computer to go on a scavenger hunt through the solar system or find a space pirate's base. Small telescopes and binoculars are also available outside so that you can observe astronomical objects on your own.

The Observatory is located just 20 miles southwest of downtown Wichita on MacArthur Road at 247th Street West in Lake Afton County Park. 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.

--- ### ---

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