



Lake Afton Public Observatory

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FOR: Immediate Release

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

DATE: June 3, 2013

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

### **Special Father's Day Weekend at the Observatory**

Show your Dad a giant ring for Fathers' Day – no, not the one in the bathtub – but the one around Saturn. Besides Saturn and its moons he can also use the Observatory's large telescope to see our Moon with its deep craters and smooth plains; and a nearby star that we know has a planet of its own. As you and Dad observe these objects, the Observatory staff will compare and contrast our Moon with Saturn and its moons and discuss how astronomers locate planets orbiting distant stars. The best part is that Dad (or Granddad) will get in FREE for this program, *Moons, Rings, and Other Things*, when accompanied by a paying child. *Moons, Rings & Other Things* will be presented from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings, June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The observatory's exhibit area gives visitors an opportunity to make a telescope, discover properties of light, explore interesting features on Saturn, touch a rock 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](http://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.