



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 4, 2012

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Special Father's Day Weekend at the Observatory

Give your Dad the gift of viewing Saturn and its beautiful rings for Fathers' Day. In honor of Fathers everywhere, the Lake Afton Public Observatory is featuring a Fathers' Day Weekend special on Friday June 15th and Saturday, June 16th. Bring Dad or Grandpa to the Observatory for the program *Messier Album* and he will receive free admission when accompanied by a paying child. We will start off by observing the beautiful ringed planet Saturn. Then we will move on to a giant red star nearing the end of its life, a huge tightly packed cluster of stars and another galaxy that is 37 million light years away. *Messier Album* will be presented from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m.

In addition to viewing through the telescope, our exhibit area gives visitors an opportunity to find out what we learned from the Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn; explore the history of the Hubble Space Telescope and its many amazing discoveries; and discover some of the many features of Saturn and what nebulas are and how they form. Other exhibits give visitors the opportunity to discover the properties of light; touch rocks that came from space; use a computer to go on a scavenger hunt through the solar system, land a spacecraft on the Moon; learn how to use a small telescope; or use binoculars to explore the night sky.

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.

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