



## Lake Afton Public Observatory

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FOR: Immediate Release

FROM: Lake Afton Public Observatory  
WSU Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education  
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DATE: August 27, 2012

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

### Give your Grandparents the Stars

Do you remember all of the wonderful things your grandparents did for you over the years? Well, here is a chance for you to return the favor! Bring them to the Lake Afton Public Observatory for Grandparents Weekend. On Friday and Saturday evenings, September 7 and 8 the Observatory will present the program *Universe of the 1920's – Deep Sky* theme from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Find out what we thought we knew about the universe and the objects in it 90 years ago and what we believe we know today as you observe examples of some of those objects through our big telescope. 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.)

There are also lots of things to do at the Observatory besides observing the night sky through a large telescope. The Observatory's exhibit area presents some of the many rewards man has reaped from the space program. It shows what the Big Dipper would look like if you lived on a planet orbiting a star somewhere else in space. Also displayed are some of the fascinating discoveries that have been made about Jupiter and its moons. Additional Observatory exhibits give you a chance to make a telescope, investigate the properties of light, and touch rocks from space. Visitors may also use a computer to go on a scavenger hunt through the solar system or practice landing a spacecraft on the moon. Plus, there are small telescopes and binoculars outside that you may use to try your hand at finding objects in the night sky.

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 (978-7827) or online by visiting our website at [webs.wichita.edu/lapo](http://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.

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**Program Information:**  
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**Internet:**  
[webs.wichita.edu/lapo](http://webs.wichita.edu/lapo)

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