



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: April 30, 2012

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory.

Special Mother's Day Weekend at the Observatory

Give your Mom the stars, Mars and another galaxy for Mother's day – she deserves it. In honor of Mother's Day, the Lake Afton Public Observatory is celebrating Mothers' Day Weekend on Friday May 11th and Saturday, May 12th. Bring Mom or Grandma to the Observatory for the program *Stars and Mars* and they will receive free admission when accompanied by a paying child. Mars is well placed for viewing so come out to the Observatory to see what it looks like through a big telescope. You will also get to observe a double star, an ancient cluster of half a million stars and a spiral galaxy. *Stars and Mars* will be presented Friday and Saturday evening from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m.

In addition to viewing through the telescope, an exhibit area gives visitors an opportunity to make a telescope, explore the properties of light, learn about the phases of the Moon, touch a rock from space, go on a scavenger hunt through the solar system or practice landing a spacecraft on the moon. Outside, are small telescopes and binoculars that visitors may 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 \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 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. Current programs and times along with 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 (978-7827).

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