CONTACT US
E-mail Planetarium and Outreach Staff to schedule your planetarium visit.

outreach@physics.wayne.edu

Or contact us by phone

(313) 577-2107

In your message, please include your name, name of school or organization, age group (K-12) or adult, number of attendees, and when you are interested in visiting the planetarium.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

http://planetarium.wayne.edu/

HOW TO FIND US

The WSU Planetarium is located on the lower level of the Old Main Building at the corner of Cass and Warren Avenues. Enter Old Main through the Cass Avenue entrance, go down the stairs, and walk straight ahead. The doors to the planetarium will be on your right, room number 0209.
OUR MISSION
Wayne State University and the Department of Physics & Astronomy are passionate about science education. And through our planetarium shows and outreach activities we have created a learning environment that is both educational and fun. We provide the inspiration while you are free to explore and discover, for yourself, our amazing and wonderful universe.

OUR AUDIENCE
- K-12 School groups
- Math & Science Centers
- The WSU community of students, faculty and staff
- Special interest groups and community organizations
- Colleges and universities
- The general public

OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS
We offer a variety of educational outreach programs that incorporate our Planetarium Shows with Physics Demonstrations and Hands-on Science Activities.

Our outreach programs include comprehensive astronomy education for grades K-12 aligned with Michigan Science Standards. Feel free to contact us with your questions and special requests as they relate to your educational needs.

We provide instructional shows for colleges and universities and have incorporated our planetarium shows into the curricula for the WSU undergraduate degree programs in the Physics & Astronomy Department.

Visit our website to find out about the other programs we offer, such as Camp Cosmos, our Physics and Astronomy summer camp, and Science Under the Dome, our monthly science lecture series.

PLANETARIUM SHOWS
Our planetarium shows consist of three parts: interactive demonstrations, the current night sky, and a fulldome film.

We begin with an interactive demonstration to learn about “size and distance” in our Solar System. We compare the diameters of the Earth, Moon, and the planet Mars by establishing a scale with the use of balloons and other props. Then, we demonstrate how to determine the distances between these celestial objects.

As the lights go down we show you how to navigate the current night sky. Find out how to identify constellations and asterisms, planets, and other celestial objects.

After the current night sky, sit back and enjoy a fulldome film. See the list of fulldome films, in this brochure, that we currently offer.

PHYSICS DEMONSTRATIONS
Audiences rave about our Phantastic Physics Phenomena—demonstrations which explore physical laws and show that physics is fun!

Watch as several of our guests are selected to stand on a turning platform to demonstrate the skater’s spin - conservation of angular momentum. See what happens as they extend their arms and then bring their arms into their chests. Will they spin faster or slower?

HANDS-ON SCIENCE ACTIVITIES
We have combined our efforts with other science departments to present hands-on science activities.

Students learn about geology and how it impacts their lives. They learn the definition of a “mineral,” and how to identify minerals in the field using the classic test, “Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness.” Students will be expected to get their hands dirty!

This is just a sampling of the many outreach programs that we present to our audiences.

FULLDOME FILMS
We present a variety of educational fulldome films. We currently offer:

BLACK HOLES: View awesome animations of the formation of the early universe, star birthing regions, and collisions of giant galaxies. Fly to the center of our Milky Way Galaxy and peer into a super massive black hole. Narrated by actor Liam Neeson.

OASIS IN SPACE: Take a wonderful voyage through our Solar System, Milky Way Galaxy and Universe, as we search the cosmos for water—a key ingredient for life on Earth. Oasis in Space provides a new perspective on the ingredient, water, that is so important for life on Earth.

STARS OF THE PHARAOHS: Travel back in time to ancient Egypt. See how science was used to tell time, make a calendar, and align huge buildings. Learn about the connection the ancient Egyptians had with the cosmos and see spectacular temples and tombs recreated in their original splendor.

TWO PIECES OF GLASS: Attend a star party and learn how the telescope has increased our awareness of our place in space. Discover the Galilean Moons, Saturn’s rings, and galaxies. Witness the discoveries of Galileo, Huygens, Newton, and Hubble. Learn how telescopes continue to expand our understanding of the Universe.

WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE: Peer deep into space through the eyes of the Hubble Space Telescope. Travel back in time to witness the birth of the Universe. See the formation of galaxies and explore beautiful nebulae. Visit neighboring planets in our Solar System before returning to Earth.