

Merrillville Community Planetarium
Public Planetarium Programs
2016-2017 School Year



All programs start at 7:30 p.m. The planetarium opens for seating 30 minutes before show time. No one is admitted after the program starts. Programs last from 60 to 90 minutes. Admission to public programs is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Seating is limited and should be reserved by calling (219) 650-5486 or visiting www.mcpstars.org. Tickets are sold at the door. Groups may arrange for a private show by calling the planetarium at (219) 650-5486.

The planetarium's Gift Shop is open for each show. Weather permitting, an outdoor observing session is offered following each program. The planetarium is located in Clifford Pierce Middle School at 199 East 70th Avenue in Merrillville, Indiana. Please park and enter on the west side of the building.

MoonWitch

Friday, October 7, 14, 21
Saturday, October 15, 22

While trick-or-treating on Halloween, Diane is frightened by stories told by her older brother of a "moon-witch". After returning home, Diane's mom and dad explain the nature of the moon and its changing appearance in the sky. Following the recorded program, we will explore the skies of autumn.

Learning About Stars

Friday, January 6, 13, 20
Saturday, January 14, 21

Why do stars have different brightnesses? Why is the color of stars important? How do stars shine? How do stars begin and end their lives? The stars of the winter sky have the answer. Find out about stars during this planetarium show filled with demonstrations and audience participation.

The Spring Sky

Friday, April 7, 14, 21
Saturday, April 15, 22

As the constellations of winter begin to set in the western sky, the stars of spring and summer are rising in the east. We'll learn what bright stars and constellations are visible in the spring. We'll also look for Mars in the early evening sky and Jupiter and Saturn, which will be visible later in the night.

Eclipse: Dance of Shadow and Light

Friday, July 7, 14, 21
Saturday, July 15, 22

On August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be visible over the United States. This is the first total solar eclipse over the 48 contiguous states since 1979. From Northwest Indiana, just under 90% of the sun will be covered by the moon. Learn about eclipses and how to safely observe this rare event.