

for release  
September 15, 2017

for more information  
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(219) 650-5486



## Dawn of the Space Age

The Merrillville Community Planetarium presents Dawn of the Space Age, a public program beginning on October 6 and continuing through October 21. The show will be presented on Friday, October 6, 13, and 20, and Saturday, October 14 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Additional showings may be added if needed. The planetarium opens for seating 30 minutes before the show begins. No one will be admitted after the program starts. The program lasts from 60 to 90 minutes.

This fall is the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Space Age. On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first satellite into orbit around Earth. Dawn of the Space Age recreates historic moments from Sputnik to the Apollo moon landings to the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. Computer-rendered images will fill the planetarium dome, immersing the audience in the visual and audio experience. The planetarium's Gift Shop will be open and, weather permitting, an outdoor observing session will be offered following the program.

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 the planetarium's web site at **[www.mcpstars.org](http://www.mcpstars.org)**. Tickets are sold at the door. Groups may arrange for a private show by calling the planetarium at (219) 650-5486.

This is the first of four public programs for the 2017-2018 school year. Our next public show will be "RingWorld" in January 2018. For more information about the planetarium, visit **[www.mcpstars.org](http://www.mcpstars.org)**. 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.

Merrillville Community Planetarium  
Public Planetarium Programs  
2017-2018 School Year



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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.

**Dawn of the Space Age**

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

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**RingWorld**

Friday, January 12, 19, 26  
Saturday, January 20, 27

From July 2004 to September 2017, the Cassini space probe studied the atmosphere, rings, and moons of Saturn, "the Ring Planet". Cassini also carried a small probe name Huygens, which became the first spacecraft to land successfully on Saturn's largest moon, Titan.

**Our Star, the Sun**

Friday, April 13, 20, 27  
Saturday, April 21, 28

Our Star, the Sun is a family presentation of one of the planetarium's school programs. During the show, S5-12, the planetarium's computer, tells us about the star that we depend on for light and heat. Find out how astronomers study stars and learn what stars are made of and how they shine.

**The Summer Sky**

Friday, July 13, 20, 27  
Saturday, July 21, 28

The warm nights of summer can be a wonderful time to explore the night sky. Learn about the bright stars and constellations visible during the summer. The Summer Sky will also show you how to find the planets Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn in the sky just after sunset.

Merrillville Community Planetarium  
 Clifford Pierce Middle School  
 199 East 70th Avenue  
 Merrillville, Indiana 46410

School and Group Programs  
 September 7, 2017

School groups (from pre-school to college), Boy and Girl Scouts, clubs and organizations, church groups, and family gatherings are invited to visit the planetarium. There is a group admission fee of \$72 per show (additional charge for full dome shows) and the planetarium can seat up to 64 visitors. Group programs may be scheduled during the school day, after school, evenings, weekends, and summer. Most programs last about an hour (shorter for very young children). Please allow additional time to use our Waiting Area or Gift Shop. For more information, call the planetarium at (219) 650-5486 or visit our web site at [www.mcpstars.org](http://www.mcpstars.org).

We frequently update our programs – please call or email to check on the availability of any program in which you may be interested.

<i>program title</i>	<i>grade level</i>	<i>program description</i>	<i>teacher guide</i>
<b>Introduction to the Planetarium</b>	kdg & 1st	Introduces the planetarium and the day and night sky	yes
<b>Wilbear's Adventure</b>	kdg - 3rd	Wilbear is a teddy bear who learns about the history & science of flight	
<b>How Do We Explore Space?</b>	1st	Exploring space by using our eyes, telescopes, and spacecraft	yes
<b>Earth Is a Planet</b>	1st - 2nd	Earth as a planet: the atmosphere, water, land, and life	yes
<b>Exploring the Sky</b>	1st - 5th	Stars, planets, moon, constellations; earns badge for young scouts	
<b>Larry Cat in Space</b>	1st - adult	A family show about a cat that follows its owner to the moon	yes
<b>Let It Snow</b>	1st - adult	Favorite holiday songs and festive animation ( <i>full dome show – additional fee</i> )	
<b>The Sun and Earth</b>	2nd	Stars; Earth orbits the sun; cause of day and night, seasons	yes
<b>MoonWitch</b>	2nd - adult	After hearing about a "MoonWitch", a young girl learns about the moon	
<b>Current Sky and Solar System</b>	3rd - adult	Constellations; sky motion; a trip to the North Pole; tour of the planets	yes
<b>The Sun's Family</b>	3rd - 4th	Covers the sun, planets, moons, asteroids, and comets	yes
<b>The Moon</b>	3rd - 4th	Basic information about the moon, phases, and eclipses	yes
<b>Flying the Space Shuttle</b>	3rd - 4th	How the shuttle works and what it does in space; historic missions	
<b>Adventures Along the Spectrum</b>	3rd - 5th	Professor Photon explains light and the electromagnetic spectrum	
<b>The Water Planet</b>	4th - 5th	The atmosphere, water, land, and life of Earth; basic geology	
<b>Our Star, the Sun</b>	4th - 5th	About stars and the sun; how the sun affects our planet	yes
<b>Satellites and Space Probes</b>	4th - 5th	Types of satellites; rockets; space probes sent to the planets	yes
<b>Dawn of the Space Age</b>	4th - adult	Historic moments from Sputnik to the Shuttle ( <i>full dome show – additional fee</i> )	
<b>Man and the Moon, part 1</b>	5th - 6th	Information learned about the moon prior to spaceflight	yes
<b>Man and the Moon, part 2</b>	5th - 6th	New knowledge about the moon from lunar probes and astronauts	yes
<b>The Inner Solar System</b>	5th - 6th	Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, and the asteroid belt	
<b>The Outer Solar System</b>	5th - 6th	Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, and comets	

continued

<i>program title</i>	<i>grade level</i>	<i>program description</i>	<i>teacher guide</i>
<b>The Planets</b>	5th - adult	From its formation to extrasolar planets, this program explores our solar system	
<b>Destination: Mars!</b>	5th - adult	Follow astronauts on a journey to explore Mars based on NASA plans	
<b>RingWorld</b>	5th - adult	The Cassini space probe explores Saturn, its rings, and its moons	
<b>The Star Gazer</b>	5th - adult	Astronomer James Kaler shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for stars	
<b>Africa: Mysteries in Art</b>	5th - adult	The art, history, and role of the sky in various cultures in Africa	
<b>Art for All Time</b>	5th - adult	Explore how humans have painted the beauty of the world throughout history	
<b>Eclipse: Dance of Shadow and Light</b>	6th - adult	Solar & lunar eclipses in history; cause of eclipses; safe viewing	
<b>A Comet Called Halley</b>	6th - adult	The history & science of comets; results of Halley's 1986 visit	
<b>Comet: From Ice to Fire</b>	6th - adult	Comets in history; the nature and study of comets; recent comets	
<b>Learning About Stars</b>	6th - adult	The winter sky; brightness, color, composition, and how stars evolve	
<b>Galaxies and the Universe</b>	6th - adult	The fall sky; the Milky Way & Andromeda Galaxies; types of galaxies	
<b>Galaxies</b>	6th - adult	A journey from our Milky Way "neighborhood" to the most distant galaxies	
<b>Life Beyond Earth</b>	6th - adult	How planets form & life begins; life elsewhere; methods of contact	yes
<b>Exploring Our Universe</b>	6th - adult	How humans' view of the universe has changed throughout history	
<b>More Than Meets the Eye</b>	6th - adult	Backyard astronomy: objects visible with eyes, binoculars, telescopes	
<b>The Endless Horizon</b>	6th - adult	Human exploration of the oceans, continents, and outer space	
<b>The Wright Way to Fly</b>	6th - adult	The story of human flight from Icarus to the Wright Brothers	
<b>All Systems Go!</b>	6th - adult	The history of NASA and America's space program from Sputnik to the shuttle	
<b>Apollo 11: First Landing on the Moon</b>	6th - adult	A detailed account of the first human landing on the moon in 1969	
<b>Magellan: Report from Venus</b>	7th - adult	Results from the Magellan probe which used radar to map Venus	
<b>The Mars Show</b>	7th - adult	Historic views, recent Mars probes, and future exploration	
<b>The Voyager Encounters</b>	7th - adult	The planets, moons, & rings of the outer solar system	
<b>Cosmic Catastrophes</b>	7th - adult	Causes of mass extinctions: supernovas, cosmic impacts, human effects	
<b>The Life and Death of Stars</b>	7th - adult	The evolution of stars as traced in the constellations of winter	
<b>Mercury: America's First Men in Space</b>	7th - adult	Early space race with the Soviet Union; flights of Shepard & Glenn	
<b>Twins in Space: The Gemini Program</b>	7th - adult	The Gemini Program tested spaceflight operations needed to land on the moon	
<b>Van Gogh Sees the Stars</b>	7th - adult	The life & art of Vincent Van Gogh; how Van Gogh was influenced by the sky	
<b>Through the Eyes of Hubble</b>	8th - adult	The discoveries made by Hubble since being successfully repaired	
<b>The Days of the Dead</b>	8th - adult	Traces the history & art of this Mexican festival from the ancient Aztecs to today	
<b>The Dawn of Astronomy</b>	8th - adult	Ancient astronomy; building and use of pyramids and Stonehenge	

Merrillville Community Planetarium  
Mailing List Update  
2017-2018 School Year

Help us keep our mailing list up-to-date and accurate. To continue receiving information about future programs, please complete and return this form by October 15, 2017. Thank you.

Return completed form to:           Mailing List  
Merrillville Community Planetarium  
199 East 70th Avenue  
Merrillville, IN 46410

action (check one):   \_\_\_\_\_   remove from mailing list  
                                  \_\_\_\_\_   add to e-mailing list – here's my e-mail address:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print. We will not share your e-mail address with other organizations.)

\_\_\_\_\_   keep on postal mailing list for another year using the address on the  
back of this paper  
\_\_\_\_\_   keep on postal mailing list, but correct as noted below

address to (circle one):   family           individual

name: \_\_\_\_\_  
address: \_\_\_\_\_  
address: \_\_\_\_\_  
city, state, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to know what you think of our planetarium and its programming. What do you like about our shows? What would you like to see changed or added? Please take a moment to write your comments in the space below.

Merrillville Community Planetarium  
Clifford Pierce Middle School  
199 East 70th Avenue  
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

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Merrillville Community Planetarium  
Fall Public Show  
Dawn of the Space Age  
Public and Group Shows  
for 2017-2018

Merrillville Community Planetarium