



Public Outreach

Public outreach is a cornerstone of the PARI mission. Our programs and efforts in this area have grown substantially over the years with the addition of staff and with countless hours of volunteer help.

Public tours- PARI is open to the public for self-guided tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Friends of PARI volunteer docents offer guided tours each Wednesday at 2 p.m. Visitors can enjoy Jo's Cove, a scenic park that provides access to a two-mile network of hiking trails. At the top of the optical ridge, the Parks Observation Deck provides mountain views that are unsurpassed in Western North Carolina.

Space Day- From the very first year of PARI's existence we have designated the first Saturday in May as Space Day, an all-day open house that attracts hundreds of visitors.

Evening at PARI- The second Friday of each month visitors are welcomed to a presentation by PARI staff or visiting experts. The evening also includes a campus tour and night sky observations with PARI telescopes.

Meteorites & Minerals Gallery- PARI's collection includes hundreds of museum grade mineral specimens, most from North Carolina. The meteorite section features specimens that have been gathered from around the world and includes pieces of Mars and the Earth's Moon.

Space Artifacts Gallery- PARI is one of the few sites in the country, and only one of two in North Carolina, selected by NASA to receive artifacts from the Space Shuttle Program. Many are currently on display, including several that have flown in space.

AdventureDome - PARI's portable planetarium is taken to schools and other public venues, and is also used on the PARI campus for Space Day, Homeschool Days and other scheduled events. AdventureDome has hosted more than 75,000 visitors.

SCOPE- Stellar Classification Online- Public Exploration (SCOPE) allows citizen scientists to use the Internet to access and analyze almost a million spectral star images from part of the APDA collection. The SCOPE software was developed by PARI scientists.

NC Grassroots Science Museums Collaborative- PARI is a longstanding member of the Collaborative, which links 39 science museums in NC. PARI provides a permanent interactive exhibit at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh and is working to provide online streaming scientific data from PARI to other museums within the Collaborative.

*PARI is a public not-for-profit organization. See www.pari.edu for more information.
July 10, 2015*