Looking for an extraordinary learning experience?

PORTABLE PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS

The Sky Tonight
Suggested for Grades 1, 3, 4 (NC) 4 (SC) Science and Pre-K and special groups
We all have a sky at night. We look at the evening’s sky, noting the classical constellations, the Moon and planets that might be up. Using the planetarium projector, we note how stars appear to move as the night progresses. Starry skies are a vanishing treasure because light pollution is washing away our view of the cosmos.

The Moon and Stars: Now You See Them; Now You Don’t
Suggested for Grades 1, 3, 4, 6 (NC) 1, 4, 8 (SC) Science
Starting with a model we observe the motions of the Earth and the Moon. We use the planetarium to observe constellations in the evening sky and look for the Moon. Through activities we model the changing phase and position of our closest neighbor and observe how stars move in the sky as the Earth rotates.

Stars of My People
Suggested for Grades 1, 2, 5, HS (NC) 2, 4 (SC) Social Studies
In studying the sky we normally familiarize ourselves with the so-called classical sky of the ancient Greeks. But peoples of other cultures had equally rich traditions. We will sample some of these to give the student an appreciation of the rich diversity people have in their views of the sky and the legends they tell.

Realm of the Planets
Suggested for Grades 1, 3, 6 (NC) 4, HS (SC) Science
Starting with the current locations of the planets in their orbits, we move to the evening’s sky and note where they appear among the constellations of the zodiac. The apparent motion of the Sun around the ecliptic leads to a discussion of the equinoxes and solstices.

PLANETARIUM MOVIES

Two Small Pieces of Glass (22:45)
Suggested for all ages and grades
"Two Small Pieces of Glass - The Amazing Telescope" show follows two students as they interact with a female astronomer at a local star party. Along the way, the students learn the history of the telescope from Galileo’s modifications to a child’s spyglass — using two small pieces of glass — to the launch of the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope and the future of astronomy. Aiming to engage and appeal to audiences of all ages, this show explores the wonder and discovery made by astronomers throughout the last 400 years.

PLANETARIUM MOVIES (Continued)

Dark The Movie (20:00)
Suggested for Grades 6, 7, HS (NC) 8, HS (SC)
“Dark” is a fulldome movie that explains and explores the nature of Dark Matter, the missing 80% of the mass of the Universe. The movie is presented by Dr. Alan Duffy, a brilliant young astronomer from the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) at the University of Western Australia — who created simulations of Dark Matter evolution inside supercomputers. Alan introduces us to the idea of Dark Matter, why astronomers think it exists, and explains why Radio Astronomy is so well-suited to its discovery.

Totality
Suggested for all ages and grades
"Totality" is a fascinating look at all the wonders of eclipse, especially total solar eclipses. An eclipse is described simply as when one celestial object blocks another from our view. This program, produced by Bays Mountain Planetarium, examines what eclipses are, how and when they occur, and what wonderful sights they create. We also look back to a fascinating period in scientific discovery when general relativity was proven with the photographic recording of a total solar eclipse. The show is followed with an update on the latest eclipse.

ASTRONOMY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Galaxy Walk
Suggested for Grades K, 1, 3, 6 (NC) 4, HS (SC) Science
The Galaxy Walk is a scale model of our solar system and a few nearby Galaxies. Visitors and school groups can stroll the PARI campus while receiving an unusual perspective on the positioning of the planets, plus a better understanding of the immense distances separating the planets from the Sun and each other.

NISEnet activities
Suggested for all ages and grades
In collaboration with NASA, the NISE Network has assembled a new set of engaging, hands-on Earth and space science experiences with connections to science, technology, and society. Topics include shadows, topographic maps, cloud observations from earth and space, scale of the solar system, potential habitats for life in the solar system, and gravity.

Size and Scale in the Solar System
Suggested for Grades 1, 3, 6 (NC) 4, HS (SC) Science
It’s hard to imagine just how big the planet Jupiter is, much less the sun itself. And, when we throw in all those figures about how far away the planets are, it becomes a real challenge to the mind. We’ll use a variety of models to get an idea of the answers to these questions. Each participant will make a model of the distances to the planets that they can take home with them.

Stars of My People
Suggested for Grades 1, 3, 4 (NC) 4 (SC) Science
In studying the sky we normally familiarize ourselves with the so-called classical sky of the ancient Greeks. But peoples of other cultures had equally rich traditions. We will sample some of these to give the student an appreciation of the rich diversity people have in their views of the sky and the legends they tell.

Looking for an extraordinary learning experience?
Reserve your program today!

PORTABLE PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS

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ASTRONOMY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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DUKE TIP FIELD STUDY IN ASTRONOMY

Since 2002, PARI and Duke TIP have worked together to provide an exceptional summer program experience for academically gifted and talented high school students. The Duke TIP offering at PARI is a two-week course in Astronomy, Physics and Astrobiology.

Each student enrolled in the PARI course spends two weeks on campus exploring astrophysics, stellar and galactic astronomy, astrobiology and astronomical instrumentation. The program includes research studies using PARI radio and optical telescopes as well as some formal class sessions. Students engage in original research under the direction of PARI astronomers and Duke TIP staff, then write and present a summary of their work. Distinguished scientists and astronomers are often on campus to present their research and studies in a series of invited guest lectures.
The Learning Center’s educational initiatives are based on experiential, hands-on learning that takes science out of the classroom and into the realm of the imagination.

In attracting students to science, the Learning Center can succeed where others cannot because we make science fun. Our students are not handed problems in a classroom with the answers in the back of the book. Here, there is no book! We engage students in hands-on problem-solving activities and were achieving success with this kind of learning experience in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education long before “STEM” became a popular acronym.

An Out of This World Learning Experience.

The Learning Center at PARI occupies a former NASA site with functioning scientific instruments used to probe the far reaches of space. A nonprofit science and educational facility, the Learning Center is packed with fun and learning experiences for the entire family, just 30 minutes from downtown Brevard.

THINGS TO DO AT PARI
- Dark Sky Observing
- Hiking
- Meteorites & Minerals
- Space Artifacts
- Camping
- Scenic Views

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
- Smiley Workshops
- Sky Trek
- Evening at PARI
- Overnight Camps
- Guided Tours
- CryptoClub
- SciGirls
- 3D Planets
- Birthday Parties
“We make science fun!”

Please Contact programs@pari.edu for additional details on programs.