Como Planetarium
Homeschool Series
2019-2020

September: Motion in the Sky
September 19, 11:00 am

Explore common misconceptions about the earth, moon and sun with a live tour and educational film. Thinking about the Earth, moon and sun is challenging because of the motion between these three objects changes in predictable ways. In addition, what perspective we take when describing what we observe in space is important. We will explore questions like 1.) why do we have seasons, and 2.) why does the moon appear in a predictable pattern. Ideal for homeschool students (and their adults) working at grades 3-7th grade.

October: The Moon
October 10, 11:00 am

Take a closer look at the moon! We will examine phases, features, and making sky observations and some information about lunar landings. This program is all live and interactive. We will use models along with live planetarium visual demonstrations. Students will be encouraged to write and draw to show their scientific thinking. Ideal for students (and their adults) working at a 1st grade level and up.

November: Eclipses, Transits and More
November 14, 11:00 am

Prepare for the November 11th transit of Mercury! Join us for this unique lesson to learn more about this event, how you can observe it, and its historical importance. In addition, we will explore our nearest star, the Sun. Explore how solar activity affects us here on Earth and why we don’t see more eclipses. Ideal for grades 4 and up.

December: Gravity
December 12, 11:30 am

Things are getting ‘heavy’ around here so let’s explore the most influential force in the universe! We will investigate how gravity plays a role in our solar system, space flight, moons and more. The lesson is interactive and includes a live tour to pertinent areas of our solar system. Ideal for grades 6 and up.

Como Planetarium
780 West Wheelock Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55117
Door # 6 inside Como Elementary School
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January: Navigating the Sky
January 9, 11:30 am

Learn to use both technological and paper-based tools to identify more objects in the sky. This will review ‘motion in the sky’ lessons and get you more comfortable navigating the night sky. Bring a device or borrow one of ours. We will also provide you with a few resources to take with you. Let us get you started with seeing new (to you) objects in the sky! Great for all grades.

February: Our Solar System
February 13, 11:30 am

Virtually visit each of the planets in our solar system and learn what makes them unique. We will reference successful and unsuccessful missions in our travels (scientists learn from both). During the tour, we will discuss what it means to do observational investigations as a scientist. All grade-levels welcome!

March: Beyond the Solar System
March 12, 11:30 am

The universe is an incredible expanse with many mysteries within it. Ever wondered about black holes? Experience a live tour, along with video imagery, to explore black holes and more beyond our solar system. Gain a sense of how expansive the universe is with us. We will utilize the planetarium to its maximum to explore visual impressions scientists have generated based on data. Students grades 6th grade and up are ideal for this program.

April: Seasons
April 9, 11:30 am

Why do we have seasons? See Earth from space to enhance student understanding of why we have seasons and address academic standards. We will also launch off Earth and tour the solar system with updated imagery, information, and current scientific mysteries in Astronomy. Best for grades 5 and up.

May: Constellation Stories
May 14, 11:30 am

Learn about the constellations that are visible in the night sky and the stories that go along with them! Hear some classic stories from the Greek/Roman traditions and more. You will also have the opportunity to create a unique constellation and write your own legend. All grade-levels welcome!