



The Starry Messenger

THE BIGGEST & BEST IN THE METROPLEX!

Regional Girl Scout Event at the Planetarium!



Are you a Girl Scout? Would you like to learn about astronomy? Then join us at the Planetarium for Girl Scout Day, April 25th. The event will be split into age groups. Each girl will earn at least one badge while visiting. Check the schedule below for more information! Cost is \$15/scout, \$5/non-participating adult. Snacks will be provided.

Brownies - 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Learn about the phases of the moon, how to tell time by the sun, and how to identify constellations in the night sky, all while earning your Space Explorer Try-It.

Juniors - 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

Watch a rocket launch into space, learn to make and fly your own kites and paper airplanes. Enjoy dehydrated ice cream (like the astronauts)! Junior Girl Scouts will earn their Aerospace Badge and Sky Search Badge.

Cadets/Seniors/Ambassadors - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Learn what black holes, pulsars and quasars are, make your own accurate star map. Bring your astronomy questions for "Ask the Astronomer". Older girls will earn their Space Exploration Interest Project.

Spaces are limited, call the planetarium at **817-272-1183** today to reserve your spot!

\$2 movies at the Planetarium

Imagine That!

Isaac Newton will appear at the Planetarium



"How I deduced the law of gravity and wrote a most important science book" by Isaac Newton, MS, Cambridge University

RA Hill presents Newton's life as he might have told it in the first person. "Newton" explores how he searched for answers to questions that held his interest... what force held the moon or the planets in their orbits, or attracted an apple to the earth? "Newton" explores the stories of the "giants" upon whose shoulders he stood to deduce the answers that led to the universal law of gravity and the science of mechanics.

See pages of Newton's original work "System of the World" and a replica of Newton's telescope, on display starting in May. Ask Isaac Newton [questions!](#) Questions will be answered during the presentations.

Schedule of Presentations:

- May 8, 2009 at 12:00 Noon
- May 15, 2009 at 7:30 pm
- May 22, 2009 at 12:00 Noon
- May 29, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Tickets are \$5 per person.

Call the planetarium at **817-272-1183** to make your reservations now! Or send us an [email](#). Want to schedule your own event with Isaac Newton? Visit his [website](#).

Astronomy Day 2009



Do you wish that you could watch your favorite movies on the big screen again? Now you can, at the Planetarium! The Planetarium will be showing movies during the week for just \$2/person, and all are welcome to attend. The schedule changes each week, so watch the *Starry Messenger* or our [website](#) to see which movies we are showing.

Showtimes are:

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
 Fridays at 6:00 PM
 Saturdays at 2:30 PM

Next month's movies are:

Blade Runner - March 25, 27, 28

Apollo 13 - April 1, 3

* Due to a scheduled private event, there will be no movie on April 4

October Sky - April 8, 10, 11

Deep Impact - April 15, 17

* Due to a scheduled private event there will be no movie on April 18

100 Hours of Astronomy



100 hours of Astronomy is a round-the-clock, round-the-globe effort to get everyone looking through a telescope, just as Galileo did 400 years ago. The clock will begin running on April 2 and will continue through April 5.

The first week of April is the best time to see Saturn this year. Not only will Saturn's glorious rings be visible that week, but so will at least 5 of Saturn's moons.

Discover the universe with our telescopes.



International Astronomy Day is Saturday May 2; celebrate with the Planetarium! In honor of the International Year of Astronomy, and International Astronomy Day, the Planetarium at UT Arlington is hosting an event that will bring Astronomy to the People.

- See the premiere of our new show "Two Small Pieces of Glass"
- Observe the Sun with our solar telescopes
- Build your own telescope (yours to keep!)
- Discover the myths and misconceptions in Astronomy in our program "Bad Astronomy"

For more information, or to reserve your space, call the planetarium at **817-272-1183** or send us an [email](#).

Celebrate SunDay at the Planetarium



SunDay, April 5, is a day to celebrate and learn about the Sun.

This event takes place on the final day of 100 hours of Astronomy, when the whole world will be celebrating astronomy as part of the International Year of Astronomy 2009.

This event is free and open to the public!

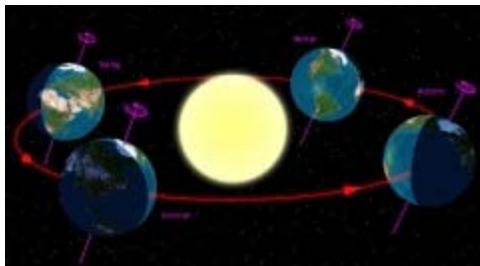
Friday, April 3: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturn and the moon will be visible this evening. Join us after for our Rock on Demand show.

Saturday, April 4: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Come use our telescopes in-between our public shows to see the sun, moon and Saturn.

Sunday, April 5: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
We'll be looking at the Sun with our telescopes all SunDay. Stop by to see our star, and follow it up with one of our public shows!

Want to learn more about 100 hours of Astronomy? Visit the [100 Hours of Astronomy website](#).

Spring Starts on March 20, 2009
6:44 AM CDT



The weather may cause you to think that spring is already here, however spring does not officially start until March 20th, the vernal equinox.

Equinox literally translated means "equal night", because the day and the night are both exactly 12 hours long. There are two equinoxes to celebrate each year, the spring (or vernal) and the autumnal.

Because the Earth is tilted on its axis as it orbits the sun, we find that the North Pole does not always point towards the sun. This is what causes the seasons. When the North Pole of our rotation is pointed toward the sun, we have summer. When it is pointed away from the sun, we have winter. But twice a year, the pole points neither towards nor away from the sun. These are the

The Planetarium will be using this day to encourage everyone to come out and enjoy our star, the Sun!

From **12:00 pm - 3:00 pm** on **SunDay April 5**, we will have our telescopes out for you to enjoy. While you are there, stop in for a public planetarium show, or *Ask the Astronomer* about the Sun.

The Sun is a middle-aged star approximately 4.5 billion years old. It will continue to "burn" Hydrogen and Helium for another 5 billion years before turning into a red giant.

More sun facts can be found at the [SunDay website](#).

Google Mars 3-D Offers Guided
Martian Tour



Armchair explorers can now spy on Mars orbiters and access raw spacecraft data from NASA —

part of a new "Live from Mars" update for Google Mars 3-D.

NASA and Google, Inc., joined forces to launch the [Mars add-on](#) for the popular Google Earth platform in February. The March update includes new features such as watching orbital tracks of spacecraft in real-time, peeling back historical globe maps of Mars and taking a guided [fly-around tour](#) of the red planet.

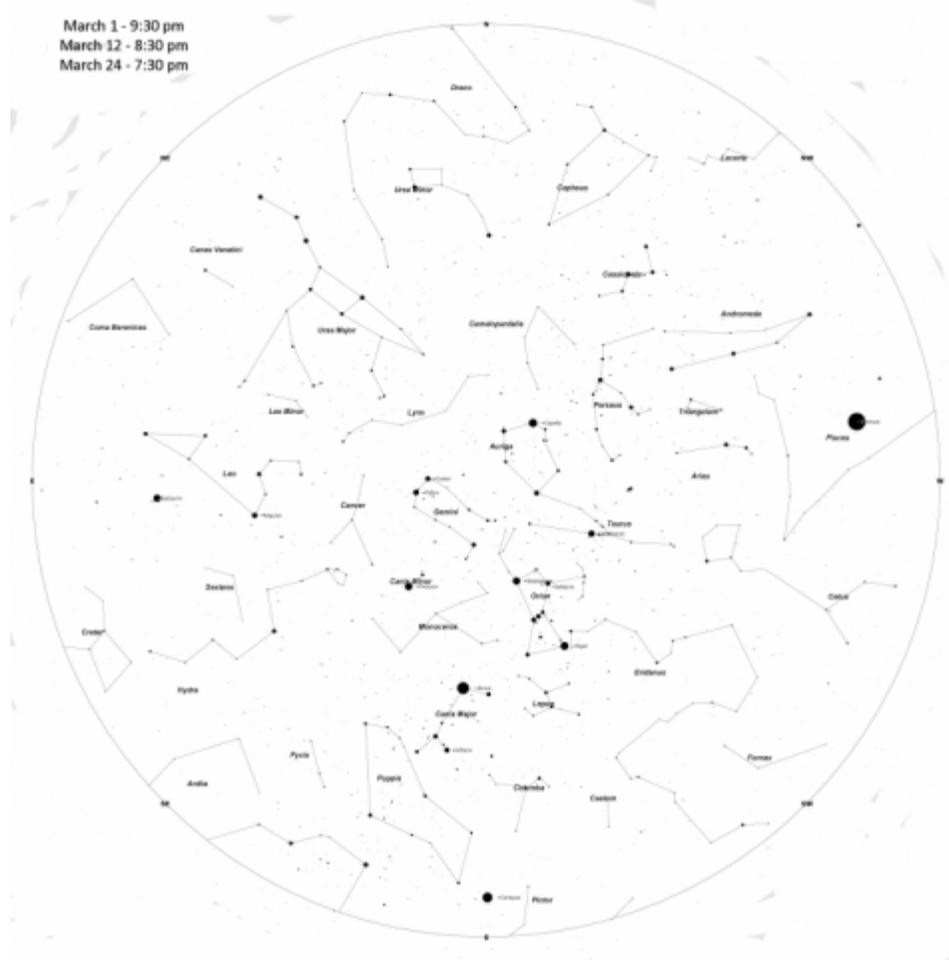
"As exciting as the initial release of Mars was [in Google Earth 5.0], it was difficult for some users to figure out," said Michael Weiss-Malik, product manager for Mars in Google Earth. Checking out a friend's house on Google Earth is one thing, but trying to navigate the canyon system of Valles Marineris represents a bigger challenge.

equinoxes. Not coincidentally our seasons are opposite to the southern hemisphere.

So, as we prepare for spring in the coming weeks, take a moment to think that if we were down south, cool weather would be on its way as they get closer to the autumnal equinox.

Now confused or disoriented people can get their Mars bearings courtesy of a planetary tour narrated by Ira Flatow, radio host of *NPR Science Friday*.

This story comes from Space.com. To continue reading please go [here](#).



Planetarium at UT Arlington

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