



# The Starry Messenger

THE BIGGEST & BEST IN THE METROPLEX!

## Holiday Schedule

December 1st - December 31st



Get in the holiday spirit with our two holiday programs, Season of Light and Holiday Music Magic.

### Holiday Music Magic:

This music entertainment show features a variety of holiday songs from Mannheim Steamroller and Burl Ives to Brenda Lee and Kurt Bestor.

Mondays at 6:30  
Tuesdays at 6:30  
Wednesdays at 3:30  
Fridays at 1:30  
Saturdays at 7:00  
Sundays at 3:30

### Season of Light:

Discover winter solstice traditions of the Celtic, Nordic, Irish, Mexican, Hopi, Christian, and Jewish. Learn some astronomical possibilities for the Christmas Star.

Mondays at 5:30  
Wednesdays at 4:30  
Thursdays at 6:30  
Fridays at 4:00  
Saturdays at 5:30  
Sundays at 4:30

The complete schedule can be found on our [website](#).

**Canned Food Drive**  
December 1st - January 1st

## Looking for a Great Gift Idea?

Give a telescope



This holiday season; give a telescope as a gift. The Planetarium gift shop has several to choose from, ranging from \$60 - \$400.

### Celestron FirstScope - \$60:

- High quality Dobsonian style stand with a 76 mm reflector optical tube make FirstScope an ideal entry level astronomical telescope.
- Portable and lightweight table-top design makes it easy to store, transport and setup your FirstScope Telescope

### Celestron 127 mm - \$250

- Perfect for the aspiring astronomer
- Easy to assemble 127mm German Equatorial reflector
- 3x Barlow lens triples the magnifying power of each eyepiece
- Includes two 1.25" eyepieces, CD-ROM "The Sky" Astronomy Software, Finderscope: 5x24

### Celestron 127 + Extra Accessories - \$400

- Same features as above plus:
- Perfect for the aspiring astronomer
- Motor Drive for easy tracking
- Eyepiece and filter kit

**New Cashiers and Educators**  
Stop by and greet them

Have you seen any new



This holiday season visit the Planetarium and help a family in need by donating a non-perishable food item, and receive a special discount. The Planetarium will give a \$1 discount to 1 ticket for each can of food you donate.

Bringing the entire family? Bring a can for each member and get a discount on all your tickets.

\$1 discount applies to 1 ticket for each can of food. Multiple cans may not be donated for multiple discounts on the same ticket.

## Holiday Closures Christmas and New Years



The Planetarium will be closed December 24th - December 25th and December 31st - January 1st.

We will be open for regular public shows throughout December. For a complete list of shows and showtimes, please see our [holiday schedule](#).

The office will be closed December 23rd - January 3rd. We will return to regular business on January 4th. If you have questions about the schedule, or any closings, please visit our [website](#).

## Water on the Moon LCROSS Mission a Huge Success



Going to the Moon? Make sure to bring your snow tires.

On November 13th, NASA announced that



faces around the dome? The Planetarium has hired several new part-time staff members!

The next time you visit the Planetarium; make sure to say hi to our new educators, Genaro "G" Grajeda, Ian Howley, and Janee Hall. They are a wealth of information, so feel free to ask all your astronomical questions!

We also have new cashiers working in the ticket booth. Ashley Liggins and Michael Woods will be running the ticket booth this holiday season, so make sure to say hello!

## Winter Solstice December 21, 2009



The shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice, comes on December 21st at 10:47 PM.

The Winter Solstice was always important to ancient astronomers, because it marked the lowest point the sun traveled in the sky.

Today we know that the solstice actually marks the point where the Earth's axis is tilted farthest from the Sun, causing the Sun to appear low in the sky.

To learn more about the solstice and the traditions created around it, watch our Planetarium show, Season of Light.

## North Pole Meteor Shower The Ursids



Head to the North Pole on December 22nd, and see a spectacular meteor shower, maybe.

the Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) and the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) had successfully discovered water on the Moon.

The ice is billions of years old, and could reveal new secrets about the formation of our solar system. It will also be useful to astronauts returning to the Moon as rocket fuel, drinking water and oxygen.

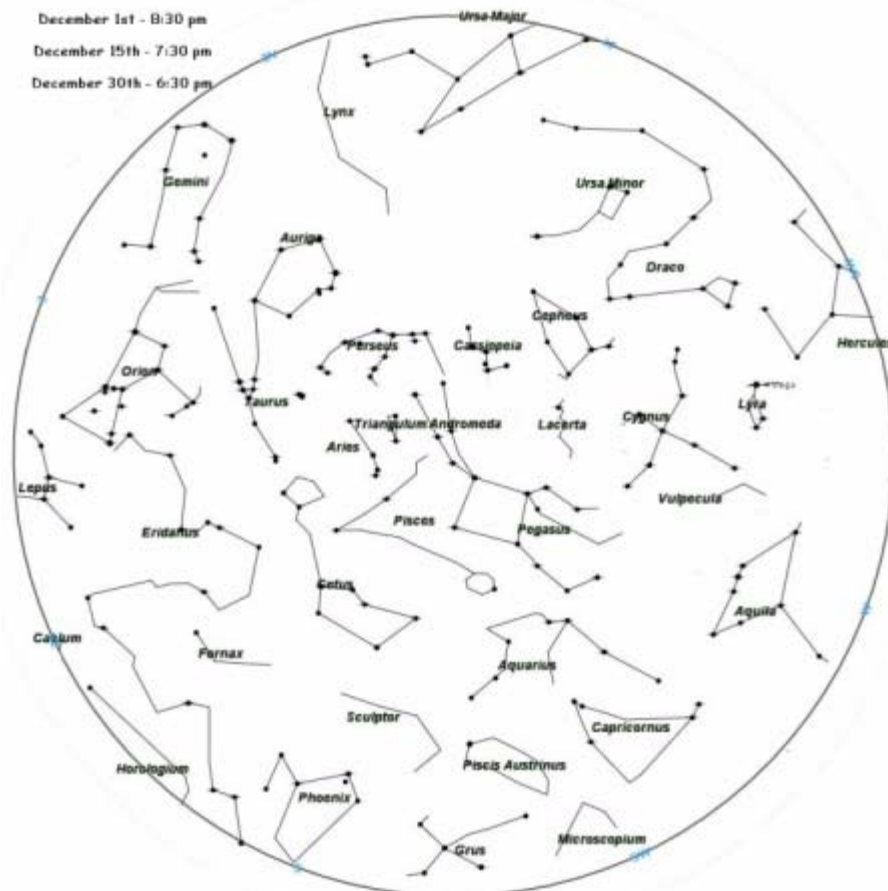
If you would like to learn more about this discovery, please see the [LRO](#) and [LCROSS](#) websites, or visit the Planetarium during our regular public shows and watch our short news reel about LRO/LCROSS before every show!

The Ursid meteor shower, in the constellation of Ursa Minor, is usually an unremarkable meteor shower. However, due to the return of comet 8P/Tuttle, astronomers think that the meteor shower will be as strong as the Perseids.

Unfortunately, the peak times for this meteor shower are during our daytime.

Comet 8P/Tuttle is visible now through binoculars in the constellation Cepheus, and is heading South. By early January, it should be visible to the naked eye.

Read more about the Ursids and Comet 8P/Tuttle [here](#).



Planetarium at UT Arlington

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