

# SUMMER

## Summer Schedule

Check out our summer public show schedule! We'll keep you cool and out of the summer heat with our great line up of family friendly shows. Our summer schedule starts on May 28<sup>th</sup> and runs through August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Tuesdays:

2:00 – Texas Stargazing

3:00 – Spacepark 360

### Wednesdays:

2:00 – We Are Astronomers

### Thursdays:

2:00 – One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure

3:00 – Spacepark 360

### Fridays:

2:00 – TimeSpace

### Saturdays:

1:00 – One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure

2:30 – TimeSpace

5:30 – We Are Astronomers

7:00 – Pink Floyd

### Sundays:

1:30 – Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

2:30 – Spacepark 360



## Lowell Observatory

Is it possible to crowdsource an old telescope? The [Lowell Observatory](#) in Flagstaff, AZ, is about to find out.

Built by the astronomer Percival Lowell in 1894, the 24-inch Alvan Clark Telescope has been in continuous use for 117 years. About the turn of the 20th century, Lowell used it to study Mars — famously arguing (incorrectly) that “canals” he saw on the planet’s surface were evidence of intelligent life. Astronomer V.M. Slipher discovered galactic redshifts there in 1912; the [Apollo program](#) used the instrument to prepare for moon missions.

For some time now, the telescope has been used mainly for public outreach and education. On almost any clear night, stargazers line up at the Clark Telescope to peer into the heavens — more than a million over the last 20 years, according to observatory outreach manager Kevin Schindler.

But that kind of traffic brings a lot of wear and tear, he said. It’s gotten hard for telescope staff to open the shutter doors on the dome, which have “been banged up over the years.” In the winter, snow drifts in from holes in the ceiling. Sometimes, workers have to climb on ladders to aim the telescope properly toward the sky, causing delays for visitors. The facility’s century-old electrical system casts off sparks and arcs.

Read more about the efforts to repair this telescope with the [LA Times article](#) or donate now through [Indiegogo](#).



## Sally Ride Tribute Event

The celebration will take place on Monday, May 20, 2013 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The event will highlight Dr. Ride's contributions and her legacies and include the talents of Patti Austin, Damian Kulash of the band OK Go, Twyla Tharp, Maria Shriver and Billie Jean King.

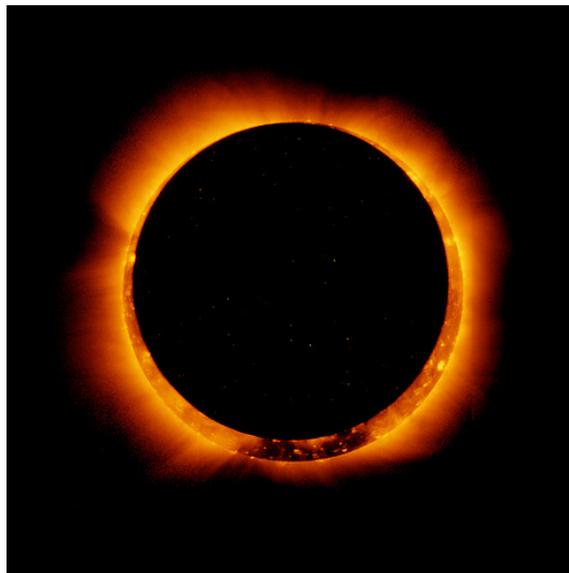
Youth talent will include the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra, Centreville High School Choral Union from Virginia and dancers from the University of North Carolina School for the Arts.

A limited number of tickets are available for the general public on a first-come, first-serve basis. To attend the event, complete this online [RSVP form](#) by Wednesday, May 15.

In a space agency filled with trailblazers, Sally K. Ride was a pioneer of a different sort. The soft-spoken California physicist broke the gender barrier 29 years ago when she rode to orbit aboard space shuttle Challenger to become America's first woman in space.

Ride's contribution to America's space program continued right up until her death at age 61. After two trips to orbit aboard the shuttle, she went on to an award-winning academic career at the University of California, San Diego, where her expertise and wisdom were widely sought on matters related to space. She holds the distinction of being the only person to serve as a member of both investigation boards following NASA's two space shuttle accidents.

Read more about Sally Ride's life and accomplishments [here](#).



## Ring of Fire Eclipse

On May 10, 2013, the sun experienced what's called an annular or "Ring of Fire" eclipse -- when the moon moves directly in front of the sun, but doesn't obscure it completely. This leaves a thin, fiery ring, the annulus, visible around the outside. This eclipse was only visible from the South Pacific, along an approximately 100-mile-wide track that traverses Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the Gilbert Islands. Other areas in Australia and Indonesia saw a partial eclipse, in which the moon blocks a much smaller region of the sun.

Annular eclipses occur at times when the moon is farther away from Earth, making it appear smaller, and not big enough to completely block the sun. While eclipses have long served as a way of observing the sun's dimmer atmosphere at a time when the bright light of the sun is blocked, annular eclipses don't provide much help with this kind of research, as the glare of the annulus overpowers any chance of seeing the atmosphere.

Eclipse observations take place with special telescopes, as even during an eclipse, one should never look directly at the sun.

