

700 Planetarium Place
Arlington, TX 76019
(817) 272 1183
planetarium@uta.edu
http://www.utaplanetarium.com

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
PLANETARIUM
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
The Starry Messenger
Monthly Electronic Publication of the Planetarium at UT Arlington



Schedule

Head to the [Arlington Fourth of July parade](#), then join us at the Planetarium for a few shows! We've extended our public show schedule for the 4th of July only!

11:00 a.m. – One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure

One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure begins on Sesame Street when Elmo's friend, Hu Hu Zhu, visits from China. Together, Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu locate the Big Dipper, the North Star and the Moon in the night sky. Use your imagination to explore the moon. Return to earth and discover that even though we live far away, we all live under the same sky.

12:30 p.m. – Back to the Moon for Good

Immerse yourself in a race to return to the Moon 40 years after the historic Apollo landings. Narrated by Tim Allen, *Back to the Moon for Good* presents the Google Lunar XPRIZE, and the personal stories of competition and collaboration it inspires.

2:00 p.m. - Astronaut

The exploration of space is the greatest endeavor that humankind has ever undertaken. What does it take to be part of this incredible journey? What does it take to become an astronaut?

3:30 p.m. – Spacepark 360

Spacepark 360 is an out of this world entertainment experience. Get transported to surreal vistas and experience the most thrilling amusement park rides the solar system has to offer!

No Public Shows July 22nd – July 25th

Due to a professional conference, the Planetarium will not be open to the public Tuesday, July 22nd through Friday July 25th. We will return to our normal summer schedule on Saturday, July 26th.

Moon Day at the Frontiers of Flight Museum Saturday, July 19th



In cooperation with the [National Space Society of North Texas](#), the [Frontiers of Flight Museum](#) once again celebrates space exploration with [MOON DAY](#), July 19, 2014. Come and experience a full day of family-oriented activities, demonstrations, and programs, marking the 45th anniversary of the first manned Moon landing (the actual landing was on July 20, 1969).

The first 200 children to arrive will receive a free “Lunar Sample Bag” courtesy of Moonlite Printing & Graphics of Carrollton, full of magazines, stickers, activity books, posters and other materials of interest to space flight enthusiasts of all ages.

Over 25 exhibitors will offer fascinating displays and activities such as a close-up look at a meteorite, robotics demonstrations, space art, re-creating Moon craters, and a SAFE look directly at the sun through specially-equipped telescopes.

Three portable planetariums and the Planetarium at UT Arlington will be featured this year, all with different programs, to give visitors a glimpse of the night sky throughout the day! Be sure to stop by our booth and say “hi”! We’ll have some special giveaways for our visitors!

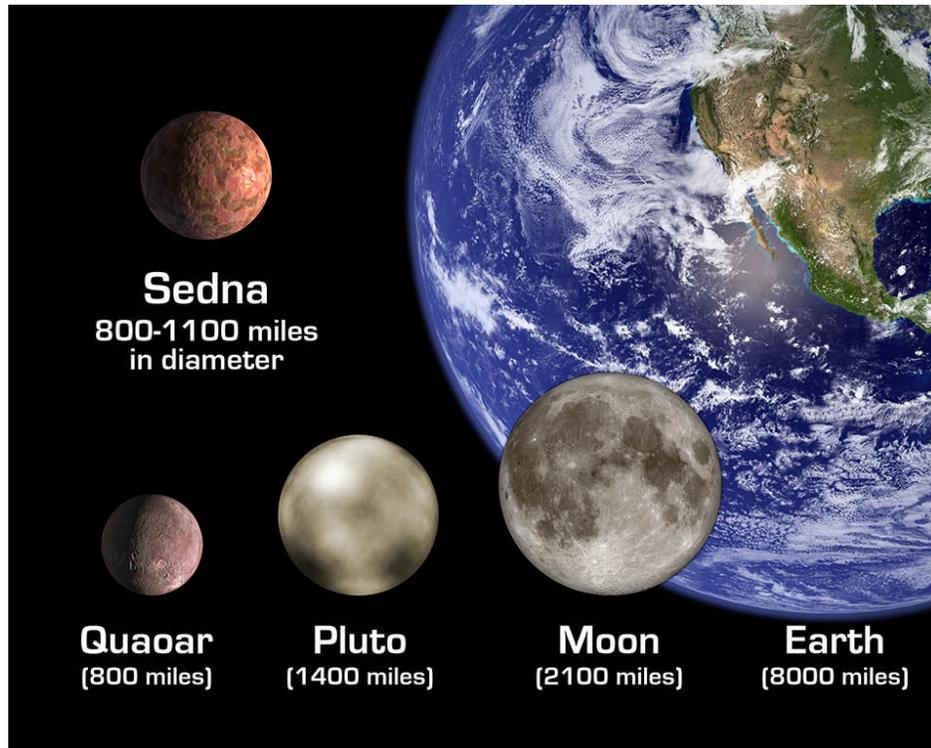
Fascinating programs for all ages will include a look at life on Mars, “Cosmic Chemistry,” and the story of how Dr. James Carter of the University of Texas at Dallas developed simulated moon soil—presented by Dr. Carter himself!

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts can meet various badge and pin requirements through participation in specific Moon Day activities. No registration is required, and the qualifying activities are presented throughout the entire day.

Continuing professional education (CPE) credits can be earned by DISD teachers attending any one of several presentations throughout the day — get a head start on your 2014-2015 requirements!

More information about Moon Day and the Frontiers of Flight Museum can be found [here](#).

Pluto's Planet Status



Planetarium at UT Arlington Director Levent Gurdemir was interviewed by FOX4 TV about Pluto, the dwarf planet, after the recent internet petitions to reinstate Pluto's planet status.

The Hubble Space Telescope spotted five moons and detected methane air around Pluto. Internet petitions suggest that these findings qualify Pluto to be a planet. However, it's not enough, according to Gurdemir.

"Mercury and Venus don't have moons and Mercury doesn't have air, but they are planets," Gurdemir said. "Pluto's status is not depending on the number of moons or whether it has air, but Pluto is different than other planets. For example, Pluto is covered by ice, the orbit of Pluto is so elongated that sometimes it is closer to the Sun than Neptune. Pluto is not the only one out there to have those types of abnormalities."

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) reclassified these objects, including Pluto, as dwarf planets. "Pluto is not coming back as a planet and there are more and more Pluto-like bodies that will likely be discovered," Gurdemir said.