Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College

1819 N. Main Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78212
210-486-0100

Scobee Planetarium Program Guide
6th Grade and higher 2026-2027
School Year

Dear Educator,

The Scobee Education Center would like to invite you to join us as we embark upon celestial adventures under the dome of the Scobee Planetarium, or a simulated mission in our state-of-the-art Challenger Learning Center and the Prek-3rd grade experience in the Santikos Micronaut Center. Aligned to the TEKS, Scobee experiences will reinforce your lessons and open doorways for new learning connections.

The Scobee Planetarium has been located at San Antonio College since 1961 and has undergone a series of renovations to install a new Digistar 2026 projection system with higher resolution and dynamic, brighter colors. We offer a variety of presentations suitable for grades pre-K through 12th. Studying astronomy and space science in the planetarium dome takes learning into a new dimension. Up to 100 adventurers may rocket through the solar system with animated tour guides, sail through the constellations of the night sky or take a precarious journey into a black hole. There is a rich library of programs to choose from including programs for both children and adults.

The Challenger Learning Center is a unique interactive simulator where 20-34 participants become immersed in the roles of astronauts, scientists, doctors, and engineers in mission control or aboard a spacecraft traveling to the Martian Moon of Phobos or low-earth orbit to the International Space Station. Communication and interpersonal teamwork skills are reinforced through every aspect of the mission as the crew is immersed in hands-on role-playing in our next generation Challenger simulator. This experience is designed for 5th graders through adults.

The Santikos Micronaut Center flies four-year olds through 3rd grader missions designed by a "Dream Team" of early childhood educators and community stakeholders. This immersive experience is built upon the TEKS, and STEAM outcomes prioritized by this team of experts. A class of up to 24 students work in pairs across 12 uniquely designed workstations that thematically represent living and working on board the International Space Station.

Our center reservation secretary, Lynn Linkes, will help you select available dates, times and grade appropriate programs. You may register for planetarium programs, Challenger Learning Center or Santikos Micronaut missions or combinations of both depending upon the ages, size of your group and pricing. For reservations or questions, contact Lynn Linkes at 210-486-0100 or e-mail her at sac- ScobeeCtr@alamo.edu.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your students to introduce them to the "out of this world" experience at the Scobee Education Center.

Sincerely,

Rick Varner
Center Director

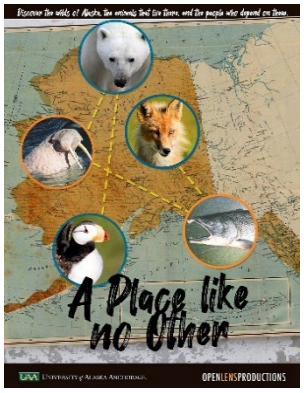
Scobee Education Center Planetarium at San Antonio College

What's New for 2026-2027!

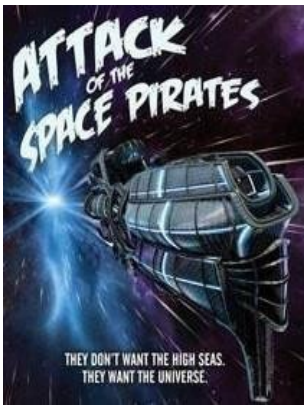
Planetarium Program Descriptions, TEKS, and Directions

Our planetarium programs are designed to be "grade-specific." If you have questions about program content and which show to choose, ask our reservation secretary, Lynn Linkes at 210-486-0100. Although each show listed has a different "run-time," plan on about fifty minutes in the planetarium per program. You may select two shorter presentations within the total 50-minute program time. Currently available shows are listed in alphabetical order.

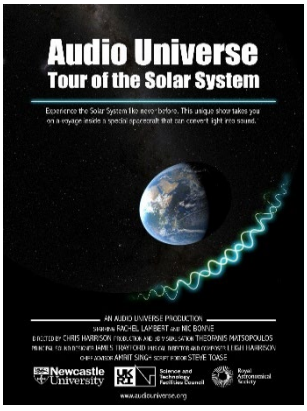
Full Dome Videos



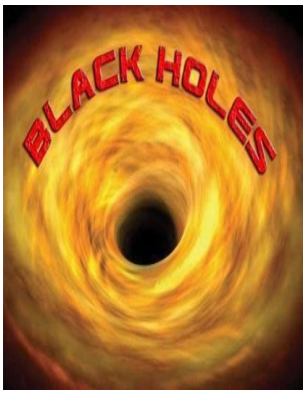
"A PLACE LIKE NO OTHER" – Grades 2nd and above. Alaska is a place like no other. For many people a trip to Alaska is a life-long dream. For the people who live here, they depend on and protect an enduring way of life. But there are places in Alaska so remote, so wild, that few people have ever gone. Here we're going to take you to these places, to the remote wilderness to see iconic animals and landscapes that define the Last Frontier, places that make up Alaska. Duration: 29 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLY6vcZ51po



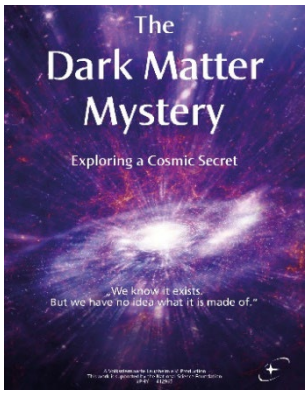
"ATTACK OF THE SPACE PIRATES" – Grades 3rd – 8th. Hidden somewhere in the vast reaches of space is an alien technology so powerful that it threatens the very galaxy itself. A gang of rogue pirates will stop at nothing to find that technology and unleash its awesome power against the rest of the universe. Now, only one valiant ship stands between the pirates and their total domination of space. It's a race against time for the Starship Intrepid as it seeks to find the alien technology first while defending itself against the attack of the space pirates! Embark on a thrilling adventure that has something for everyone: alien planets, exploding stars, black holes, evil villains and a series of space battles that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Duration: 37 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PRpjEvPzAc



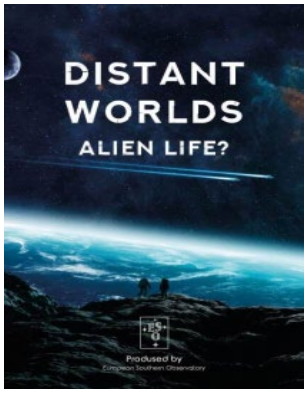
"AUDIO UNIVERSE – TOUR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd – 8th. Unlike traditional planetarium shows, the soundtrack takes the lead role. All the objects in space are represented with rich sounds as well as with incredible visuals. Listen to the stars appear and hear the planets orbits around you in this immersive experience. Duration: 35 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PRpjEvPzAc



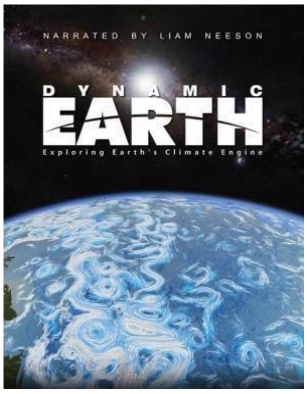
"BLACK HOLES" – Grades 6th and above. Our most complex show! Take a journey through one of the most mystifying, awe-inspiring phenomena in the universe: a black hole. Where do they come from? Where do they go? How do we find them? Is there a black hole in Earth's future? Using the latest in full-dome, animation visualization technology, explore with us the science and mystery of "Black Holes!" This program is narrated by actor John de Lancie, a.k.a. "Q" of Star Trek. Duration: 35 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eortR1AkEQM



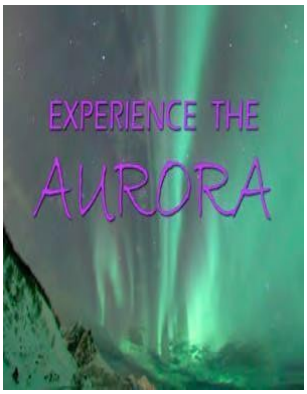
"THE DARK MATTER MYSTERY" – Grades 6th and above. What keeps galaxies together? What are the building blocks of the Universe? What makes the Universe look the way it looks today? Researchers all around the world try to answer these questions. We know today that approximately a quarter of the Universe is filled with a mysterious glue: Dark Matter. We know that it is out there. But we have no idea what it is made of. The show takes you on the biggest quest of contemporary astrophysics. You will see why we know that Dark Matter exists, and how this search is one of the most challenging and exciting searches science has to offer. Duration: 39 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE_hFvAAoBo



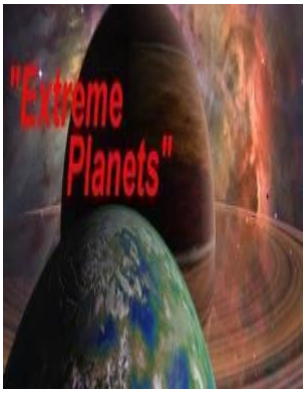
"DISTANT WORLDS – ALIEN LIFE?" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 4th and above. The night sky is effectively a view of infinity; could alien life exist out there somewhere? This film investigates the conditions required for life, beginning with planets and moons in our Solar System and venturing out to some of the newly discovered exoplanets orbiting other stars. Potentially habitable exoplanets are now being discovered regularly - worlds that are not only very far away, but also strange and unfamiliar. What could life on these worlds look like? What are the chances of encountering intelligent life in the future and how might we detect it? Duration: 52 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2zN3W2QauY



"DYNAMIC EARTH" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd and above. Explore the inner workings of Earth's climate system. With visualizations based on satellite monitoring data and advanced supercomputer simulations, this cutting-edge production follows a trail of energy that flows from the Sun into the interlocking systems that shape our climate: the atmosphere, oceans, and the biosphere. Audiences will ride along on swirling ocean and wind currents, dive into the heart of a monster hurricane, come face-to-face with sharks and gigantic whales, and fly into roiling volcanoes. Duration: 24 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnSmFC-JgvQ

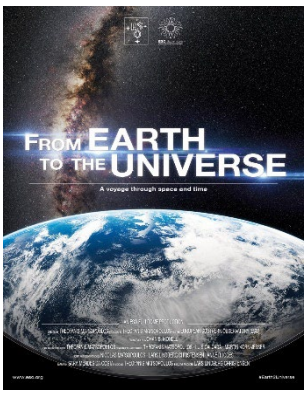


"EXPERIENCE THE AUROA" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 5th and above. Over seven months in the Arctic Circle, photographers using special digital cameras and all-sky lenses imaged the breathtaking beauty of the Aurora Borealis or "Northern Lights." For the first time the aurora has been captured as it was meant to be experienced, as a display that covers the entire sky. This immersive presentation shares the science behind the aurora and tells the story of our quest to find and photograph one of nature's most magnificent displays. Duration: 27 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_NAh9rAnWk



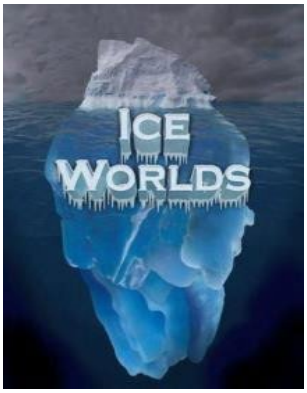
"EXTREME PLANETS" – Grades 4th and above. Ever since the first humans looked towards the stars, we have wondered whether we are alone in the Universe. Today, we are one step closer to knowing the answer. With the discovery of the first planet orbiting another star in 1995, we now know that planets are not unique to our own Solar System. Over 2,000 planets have been discovered orbiting stars beyond the Sun. In fact, these "extra- solar" planets appear to be quite common. While no one has yet found an Earth-like world with conditions like ours, it now seems only a matter of time before this discovery takes place. In this new program entitled, "Extreme Planets," we'll explore what makes a planet "Earth- like" and take a tour of several worlds that just might fit the conditions astronomers are looking for. From water worlds to molten landscapes, inhabitable moons to planets with multiple suns, these exotic worlds aren't just science fiction anymore. Duration: 33 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqQJ6SeIE4U

"FORWARD TO THE MOON" – Grades 2nd and above. Kari Byron from Crash Test World and MythBusters launches us on a journey beyond the Earth towards a sustainable future in space. NASA's 21st century Artemis program, named after the Greek moon Goddess and twin of Apollo, is the next step in our mission to explore the universe and land the first woman and person of color on the surface of the Moon. Produced by Fiske Planetarium in collaboration with TEND Studio. Duration: 26 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvK2YLcK4jw

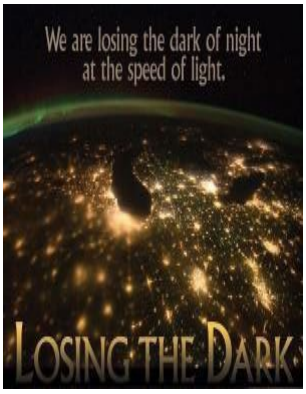


"FROM EARTH TO THE UNIVERSE" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd and above. The night sky, both beautiful and mysterious, has inspired awe and been the subject of campfire stories, and ancient myths for as long as there have been people. A desire to comprehend the Universe may well be humanity's oldest shared intellectual experience. Yet only recently have we truly begun to grasp our place in the vast cosmos. To learn about this journey of celestial discovery, from the theories of the ancient Greek astronomers to today's grandest telescopes, we invite you to experience *From Earth to the Universe*. Duration: 32 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXZhMLyP7RA

"THE HOT AND ENERGETIC UNIVERSE" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 5th and above. The planetarium documentary "The Hot and Energetic Universe" presents with the use of Immersive Visualizations and real images the achievements of the modern astronomy, the most advanced terrestrial and orbital observatories, the basic principles electromagnetic radiation and the natural phenomena related to the High Energy Astrophysics. High Energy Astrophysics plays a key role in understanding the universe. This radiation reveals the processes in the hot and violent universe. High Energy Astrophysics probes hot gas in clusters of galaxies, which are the most massive objects in the universe. It also probes hot gas accreting around supermassive black holes in the centers of galaxies. Finally, high energy radiation provides important information about our own galaxy, neutron stars, supernova remnants and stars like our Sun which emit copious amounts of high energy radiation. Duration: 30 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDtHvL70-mY



"ICE WORLDS" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd and above. This presentation allows audiences to appreciate the delicate balance between ice, water and the existence of life, which has been a topic of exploration and discovery in science for generations. In travels to the Arctic and Antarctic regions of our planet, audiences will examine the ecosystems that live and thrive there and see how their survival is connected with our own. Beyond Earth, we'll see how the existence of ice shapes the landscape and the natural systems on other planets and moons in our solar system. This program is narrated by two-time Academy Award nominee for Best Actress, Emily Watson. Duration: 22 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Xhd2PBaVpc

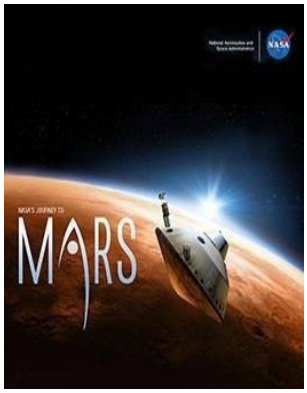


"LOSING THE DARK" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd and above. Starry skies are a vanishing treasure because light pollution is washing away our view of the cosmos. It not only threatens astronomy, it disrupts wildlife, and affects human health. The yellow glows over cities and towns — seen so clearly from space — are testament to the billions spent in wasted energy from lighting up the sky. Duration: 7 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blX9bTOTnHk&t=5s

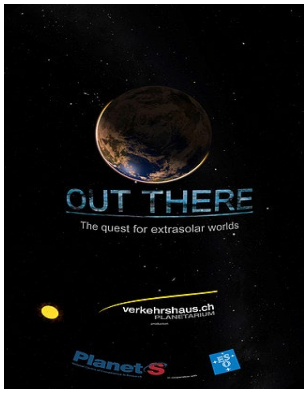
"MARS: ONE THOUSAND AND ONE" – Grades 3rd and above. An international crew of astronauts is about to embark on the first interplanetary journey in history, the first manned mission to the surface of Mars. Witness firsthand their brave attempts to put human footprints on Mars and return safely to Earth. Duration: 53 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3M3Nqkien8

"NASA'S, THE FUTURE OF HUMAN EXPLORATION" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 2nd and above. Now that the Space Shuttle era is over, NASA is writing the next chapters in human Spaceflight with its commercial and international partners. It is advancing research and technology on the International Space Station, opening low-Earth orbit to US industry, and pushing the frontiers of deep space even farther all the way to Mars! Duration: 12 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsf4NXcE4Qg

"NASA'S, INTERNATION SPACE STATION" – Grades 2nd and above. In 1998, assembly began in space on a satellite that would be second in size and radiance only to the Moon…NASA's International Space Station. Completed in the 21st Century, the International Space Station's role in the development of your future as well as that of the United States space program is enormous. Many things learned in space are already benefiting life right here on Earth. Ultimately this satellite will be the springboard enabling nations around the world to prepare to take the next giant leap past our Moon and into the Solar System. Today NASA and the International Space Station invite you to join us for the first opportunity in history to participate in the academic challenges and commercial opportunities available as NASA travels beyond Earth to understand and explore the Solar System. Duration: 12 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfYJEI6KjFg



"NASA'S, JOURNEY TO MARS" – Grades 2nd and above. Prepare your students for STEM-related career opportunities in the future. Interest them in pushing the boundaries of technology and innovation. NASA's fleet of Mars robotic explorers are paving the way for human exploration of the Solar System in the coming decades. Have your students join NASA in preparing for a monumental journey of a lifetime – to Mars! Duration: 11 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cafLyEU9Y50



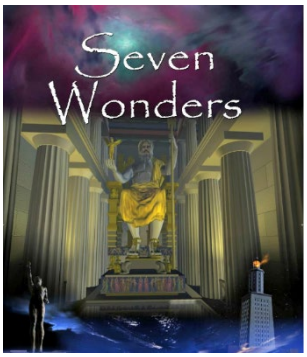
"OUT THERE" – Grades 3rd and above. *Out There — The Quest for Extrasolar Worlds* will transport viewers from this world to entirely new and foreign ones. The show features the primitive science fiction of early civilizations, to the future space missions that will observe the Universe in greater-than-ever detail and travel to the surfaces and oceans of moons in our Solar System. Duration: 31 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxhxcqBK5Ok

"SECRET LIVES OF STARS" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 5th and above. Not all stars are created equal. Some are massive. Others are tiny; almost insignificant. The specific characteristics of a star will determine what type of life it will lead, how long it might live and even the type of death it will die. We will witness the amazing variety of stars and peer into their secret lives. Narrated by Sir Patrick Stewart of TV's Star Trek: The Next Generation. Duration: 27 minutes.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGdX49enPR4

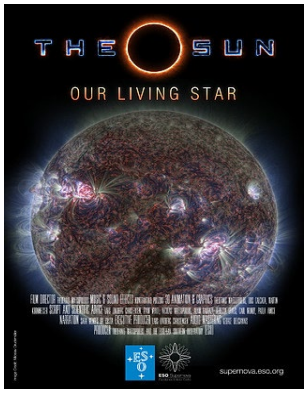
"SEEING"– Grades 6th and above. Follow the journey of a single photon as it is produced in a distant star, before traveling across the vast expanse of space to land on someone's retina. This show explores some of the fascinating processes of the cosmos, from astrohpyscis to the biology of the eye and brain. Duration: 27 minutes.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijGyynKnj6s



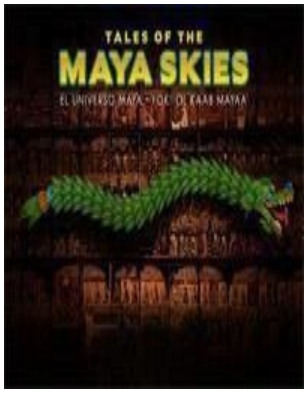
"SEVEN WONDERS" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd and above. Turn back the pages of time and witness the ancient wonders of the world as they appeared thousands of years ago. Explore the great pyramid, stand in the shadow of the towering Colossus, and experience the rest of the world's Seven Wonders. We Will investigate the theories of how these wonders were created, and get a glimpse of some of the universe's great wonders. Duration: 32 minutes.

Trailer: https://youtu.be/CGMlhaHGdjs



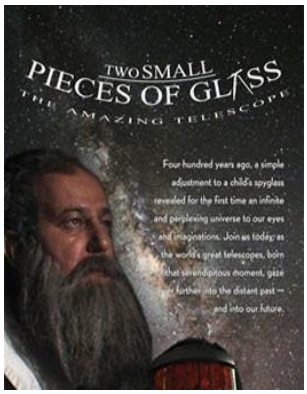
"THE SUN – OUR LIVING STAR" – Grades 6th and above. The Sun has shone on our world for four and a half billion years. The light that warms our skin today has been felt by every person who has ever lived. It is our nearest star and our planet's powerhouse, the source of the energy that drives our winds, our weather, and all life. The passage of the Sun's fiery disc across the sky was the only way to keep track of time for countless past civilizations. Discover the secrets of our star in this planetarium show! Duration: 25 minutes.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-_BWL2NrN4



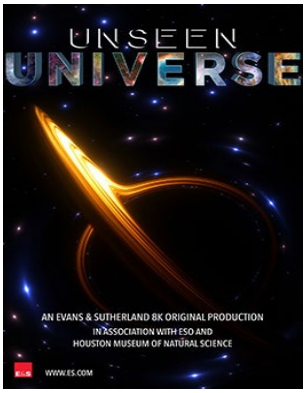
"TALES OF THE MAYA SKIES" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 4th and above. Come experience a digital full-dome production that immerses the audience into the Maya astronomy, art and culture through a custom music score and computer visuals. Come explore the beauty of Chichén Itzá, Mexico, the "seventh wonder of the modern world." "Tales of the Maya Skies" inspires and educates through its description of the Maya's accurate astronomical achievements and how astronomy connected them to the Universe. This program is narrated by Latin Grammy award winner, Lila Downs. Please request Spanish language version if so desired, but note, pre and post show commentary by the planetarium staff is in English. Duration: 34 minutes.

Trailer" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43kbf30fFGU



"TWO SMALL PIECES OF GLASS" (ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH) – Grades 3rd and above. Galileo's telescopic observations began a revolution, transforming our views of the cosmos and our place within. It is a revolution which, four hundred years later, continues. Today you can attend star parties where amateur astronomers set up their telescopes for public viewing. Views through such telescopes would have amazed Galileo. Two Small Pieces of Glass puts you in the middle of a modern star party. Discover the wonders that even a small amateur telescope can reveal and learn about the scientists that made such views possible. Duration: 23 minutes.

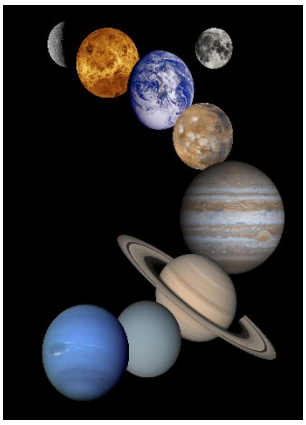
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUe1nX3MDPM&t=9s



"UNSEEN UNIVERSE"– Grades 4th and above. For millions of years, our view of the heavens has been limited by our eyes, allowing us to only see a narrow band of electromagnetic radiation we call visible light. For the first time ever, in the greatest breakthrough since the invention of the telescope, we now have the technology to capture the Universe over an amazing width of the spectrum and beyond. Duration: 25 minutes.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7uAHTkqMfY

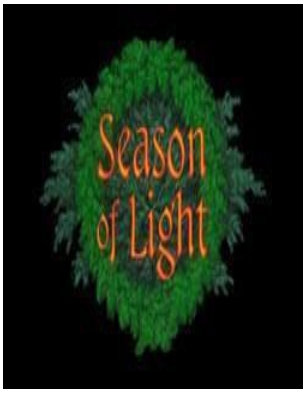
Live Lectures



"PARADE OF THE PLANETS" – Grades 2nd and above. "PARADE OF THE PLANETS" takes the audience on a "live" tour of the solar system. The show highlights unique features of each planet as well as a few of the spacecraft that have visited each of the planets. Touring the Solar System is a "live" lecture. This program is recommended if you have a wide variety of ages attending the planetarium. Duration: 45 minutes.

"THE SKY TONIGHT" – Grades 2nd and above. "THE SKY TONIGHT" takes the audience on a "live" tour of the wonders of the San Antonio night sky. This program highlights the Moon, the visible evening and morning planets, plus identifies several of the brightest stars and constellations in the current night sky. Plus, any special celestial events are also highlighted. This program is recommended if you have a wide variety of ages attending the planetarium. Duration: 45 minutes.

Presented in December Only.



"SEASON OF LIGHT" – Grades 1st and above. "Season of Light" is a program about the coldest and darkest of seasons — a time which holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year. This presentation traces the history and development of many of the world's most endearing holiday customs, all of which involve lighting up the winter season — from the burning Yule log, sparkling Christmas tree lights and candles in windows, to the lighting of luminarias in the American Southwest and the traditional ritual of the Hanukkah Menorah. The show also recounts the historical religious and cultural rituals practiced during the time of winter solstice — not only Christian and Jewish, but also Celtic, Nordic, Roman, Irish, Mexican and Hopi Indian. It also takes a look at some of our more light-hearted seasonal traditions: from gift-giving and kissing under the mistletoe, to songs about lords a-leaping and ladies dancing, and the custom of decking the halls with greenery and candles. St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, and Santa Claus all drop by as well. Naturally, there is astronomy in "Season of Light." Audiences learn a selection of Northern Hemisphere winter constellations, and find out why we even have seasons, as we demonstrate the Sun's path across the sky throughout the year, and the Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun. And of course, the program explores the possible astronomical explanations for a "Star over Bethlehem." Could the "star" have been a comet, meteor, novae and supernovae, or conjunction of planets? All this and more are explored in our special presentation, "Season of Light." This program is narrated by Noah Adams, host of National Public Radio's, "All Things Considered." Duration: 35 minutes.
Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCQhNhYAx4E

SCIENCE TEKS (Adopted 2021)

Science TEKS	A Place Like No Other	Attack of the Space Pirates	Audio Universe	Black Holes	The Dark Matter Mysteries	Distant Worlds – Alien Life?	Dynamic Earth	Experience the Aurora	Extreme Planets
6.9		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
6.10							√		
6.11							√		
6.12	√						√		
7.9		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
7.10	√						√		
7.11	√						√		
7.12	√						√		
8.8		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
8.9		√	√	√	√	√		√	√
8.10							√		
8.11	√						√		
8.12	√						√		
HS AQUA							√		
HS AST			√	√	√	√	√	√	√
HS BIO	√						√		
HS E&S			√	√	√	√	√	√	√
HS ENVI	√						√		

Science TEKS	Forward to the Moon	From Earth to the Universe	The Hot and Energetic Universe	Ice Worlds	Journey to the Center of the Milky Way	Losing the Dark	Mars 1001	NASA The Future of Human Exploration	NASA International Space Station
6.9	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
6.10				√					
6.11				√			√	√	√
6.12				√		√			
7.9	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
7.10				√					
7.11				√			√		
7.12				√		√			
8.8		√	√	√	√			√	√
8.9	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
8.10				√			√		
8.11				√		√	√	√	√
8.12				√		√			
HS AQUA				√					
HS AST	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
HS BIO				√		√			
HS E&S	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
HS ENVI				√		√			

Science TEKS	NASA Journey to Mars	Out There	Secret Lives of Stars	Seeing	Seven Wonders	The Sun Our Living Star	Tales of the Maya Skies	Two Small Pieces of Glass	Unseen Universe
6.9	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
6.10									
6.11	√								
6.12									
7.9	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
7.10			√						
7.11									
7.12									
8.8	√	√	√			√		√	√
8.9	√	√	√			√		√	√
8.10									
8.11	√								
8.12									
HS AQUA									
HS AST	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
HS BIO									
HS E&S	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
HS ENVI									

Science TEKS	Parade of the Planets	The Sky Tonight
6.9	√	√
6.10		
6.11		
6.12		
7.9	√	√
7.10		
7.11		
7.12		
8.8		
8.9		
8.10		
8.11		
8.12		
HS AQUA		
HS AST	√	√
HS BIO		
HS E&S	√	√
HS ENVI		