

STARGAZING PROGRAMS & GENERAL INFORMATION



FREE STARGAZING AND TELESCOPE VIEWING

Attending our Multimedia Shows prior to stargazing with telescopes is key to getting the most out of your Astronomy Festival experience. At the shows you'll not only be told how to best look through a telescope, but also how to better appreciate the surrounding stars & planets. To assist your viewing of the heavens, we proudly enlist volunteers from the Salt Lake Astronomical Society (SLAS) who are the most helpful and knowledgeable telescope operators around! Therefore, don't be shy! If you don't see anything, let the telescope operator know! Please ask questions & most of all, enjoy the view!

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY - BRYCE CANYON STARGAZING SITE*
STARGAZING: 10:30 PM - 12:30 AM

At the Stargazing Site, Bryce Canyon's Park Rangers will offer 20-minute constellation tours where you can learn more about the mythology and lore of the night sky.



***Parking at the Stargazing Site is limited to persons with disabilities and telescope operators. EVERYBODY ELSE must arrive at the Stargazing Site via the Star Shuttles (see Star Shuttle Information).**



Dress Warmly: At 8,000 feet, Bryce Canyon is cooler than you may expect. While daytime temperatures typically reach 80°F, nighttime temperatures can fall below 40°F.



Bad Weather: In the event of cloudy or stormy weather, stargazing will be cancelled as determined only at the conclusion of the Multimedia Shows.



Flashlights: No flashlights, flash photography, or laser pointers allowed on the Stargazing Site. Trust us, you can see in the dark once your eyes have had 10-15 minutes to adjust to the darkness.



Star Shuttles: Parking near the Stargazing Site is limited. Each night (June 17 – 20), two nighttime shuttles provide transit between the Multimedia Show venues, the Stargazing Site, and overnight accommodations in the Park at Bryce Canyon City. See map at right. The Star-Shuttle has a 15-minute return interval. A second shuttle, the Ruby's-Star Shuttle, will make all of these stops and additionally go out to Ruby's Inn. The Ruby's-Star Shuttle has a return interval of 30 minutes. Express Shuttles from Ebenezer's Barn and Grill to the Stargazing Site will operate immediately following Friday's program with Derek Demeter.

STAR SHUTTLE: 8:00 PM – 12:30 AM

STAR-RUBY'S SHUTTLE: 8:00 PM – 12:30 AM



Accessibility: Handicapped parking is available at the Stargazing Site. The Stargazing Site itself is paved, with gentle inclines suitable for wheelchairs.



Restrooms: Two portable toilets (one is accessible) are located at the Stargazing Site. Accessible restrooms are also available at the Visitor Center until midnight each night.

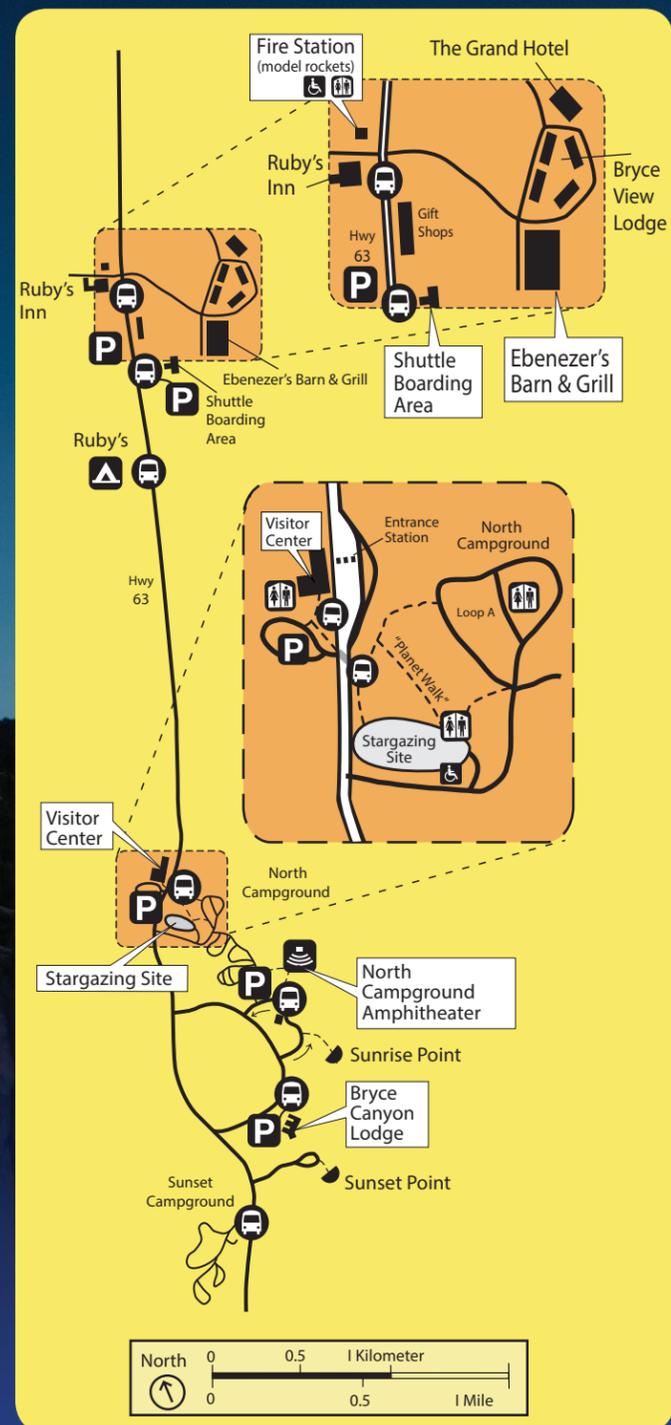


Book Store: Visit the book/gift store located at the Visitor Center. We feature a full range of "Night Sky" related products. All proceeds support various park projects & programs.



JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR OUR 16TH ANNUAL
BRYCE CANYON ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL
JUNE 1 - 4, 2016

MAP OF FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES



This special event is sponsored by the National Park Service, Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, Bryce Canyon City, Ruby's Inn, Garfield Travel Council, Salt Lake Astronomical Society, the National Park Foundation and the Seminole State College.

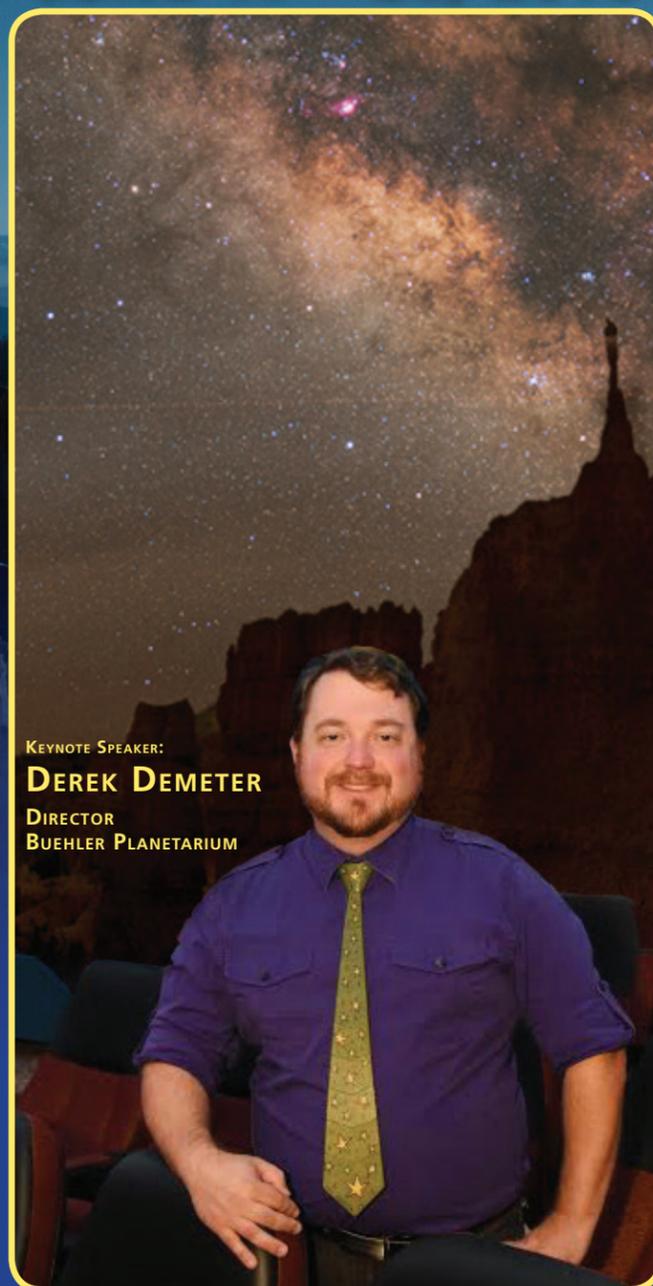


Bryce Canyon National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



15TH ANNUAL
BRYCE CANYON
ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL
"The last grand sanctuary of natural
darkness"

JUNE 17 – 20, 2015



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DEREK DEMETER
DIRECTOR
BUEHLER PLANETARIUM

DON'T GET CAUGHT GUESSING AT THE TELESCOPES! ATTEND ONE OF OUR FREE RENOWNED MULTIMEDIA SHOWS FIRST!

WEDNESDAY 17TH

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Solar Viewing
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Beginning Astronomy
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Rocket Building & Launching Workshop
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Star Lab
 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Planet Walk
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Planisphere

Evening Programs

STAR STORIES

ADMIT ONE

Planetarium Educator Dr. Amy Sayle takes you on a trip through the constellations and the eternal legends they help tell. Help act out one of the greatest star stories ever told!

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 8:15 PM - 9:15 PM

A UNIVERSE FROM AN IDEA

ADMIT ONE

Join Rob Owen as he celebrates the centennial year of Einstein's greatest discovery by exploring some of its most shocking (and true!) consequences of the universe around us.

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 8:45 - 9:45 PM

LUNACY: STORIES, LEGENDS, AND SCIENCE

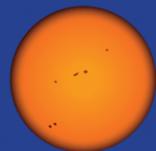
ADMIT ONE

Join Ranger Kevin Doxstater as he explores some of the stories, legends, popular culture, and interesting science facts you may know - as well as a few you may not know - about our nearest celestial neighbor, the Moon.

LOCATION: N. CAMPGROUND OUTDOOR THEATER
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 9:15 PM - 10:15 PM

ADMIT ONE

Tickets: Because of limited seating, FREE tickets are required for the Wednesday, Thursday, & Saturday Evening Programs (for Friday keynote see right). Tickets must be obtained in person and are available at the Visitor Center beginning at 10pm the night before the program (Visitor Center open until midnight June 17 - 20; tickets for Wednesday programs available beginning at 6pm Tuesday).



SOLAR VIEWING

Using special solar telescopes, we will safely show you the Sun & explain solar prominences including sunspots.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: NONE

LOCATION: OUTDOORS, BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER PATIO ENTRANCE



BEGINNING ASTRONOMY

An Introduction to a branch of science that deals with celestial objects, space, & the physical universe as a whole.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: NONE

LOCATION: OUTDOORS, BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER PATIO ENTRANCE

THURSDAY 18TH

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Solar Viewing
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Beginning Astronomy
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Rocket Building & Launching Workshop
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Star Lab
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Celestron's Bryan Cogdell Visitor Center Auditorium
 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Planet Walk
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Planisphere

Evening Programs

MAPPING THE MOON

Sea of Tranquility, Ocean of Storms, Lakes of Death and Dreams - the story of mapping the Moon lies at the intersection between science, art, philosophy and adventure. Join Park Ranger Kelly Ricks on an exploration of this poetic landscape.

ADMIT ONE

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 8:15 PM - 9:15 PM

THE FIRST STAR PEOPLE

ADMIT ONE

North America has been practicing astronomy for thousands of years. Native people left evidence in archeological sites & oral traditions showing they were profoundly affected by the stars, sun & moon. Join Park Ranger Sean Duffy to look at the stars & constellations through indigenous eyes.

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 8:45 PM - 9:45 PM

JOURNEY TO THE VIRGO CLUSTER

ADMIT ONE

Join Park Ranger Donald Williams for a trip highlighting some of the celestial objects visible from Bryce Canyon's magnificent dark sky.

LOCATION: N. CAMPGROUND OUTDOOR THEATER
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 9:15 PM - 10:15 PM



ROCKET BUILDING & LAUNCHING WORKSHOPS

Here's a chance to introduce your son or daughter to the hobby of model rocketry. Spectators welcome, no charge!

AUDIENCE: AGES 6+ (AN ADULT MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN)

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON CITY FIRE STATION
EVERY DAY 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - ASSEMBLY
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM - LAUNCH

NOTE: PARTICIPANTS CAN PURCHASE ROCKET KIT TICKETS FROM THE BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER BOOKSTORE PRIOR TO THE WORKSHOP. ROCKET KIT PRICES RANGE FROM \$10-\$30. YOU CAN ALSO BRING YOUR OWN ROCKET FOR THE LAUNCHING.

FRIDAY 19TH

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Solar Viewing
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Beginning Astronomy
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Rocket Building & Launching Workshop
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Star Lab
 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Planet Walk
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Planisphere



FRIDAY, JUNE 19 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM
"A CLEAR DARK SKY"

ADMIT ONE

Join the director of the Buehler Planetarium Derek Demeter for storytelling of cosmic proportions. Mr. Demeter whisks guests through space & time as we explore the vast history of our understanding of the Universe, starting with our earliest ancestors & their ideas about the cosmos to the modern-day telescopes & spacecraft that have enhanced our knowledge in unbelievable ways. Derek currently serves as the President-Elect of the Southeastern Planetarium Association. Derek enjoys promoting science beyond the planetarium with his work as an astrophotographer. His pictures can be seen in NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day website. Over much of the last decade, his passion for teaching people about the wonders of the Universe has earned him accolades & recognition from the planetarium industry, his peers, & the community.

LOCATION: EBENEZER'S BARN & GRILL, BRYCE CANYON CITY
ATTENDANCE LIMIT: 1500
ADMISSION: \$3 PER PERSON/\$10 PER IMMEDIATE FAMILY

PAY AT THE DOOR OR ADVANCE TICKET SALES MONDAY - FRIDAY, 2 TO 6 PM AT THE EBENEZER'S BARN & GRILL DESK IN RUBY'S BEST WESTERN LOBBY

*Followed at 10:45 PM by FREE stargazing w/ telescopes at the Stargazing Site in Bryce Canyon National Park (across from the Visitor Center).



PLANISPHERE: LEARN THE SKY

Becoming a constellation expert requires nothing more than practice with a planisphere. Let Bryce Canyon's Park Rangers teach you how to use this simple device and share with you other useful tips and tricks for navigating the night sky. Join us for this great warm-up to stargazing.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: 50 (FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED)
LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER

SATURDAY 20TH

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Solar Viewing
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Beginning Astronomy
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Rocket Building & Launching Workshop
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Star Lab
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Celestron's Bryan Cogdell Visitor Center Auditorium
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Evening Programs

STAR STORIES

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LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 8:15 PM - 9:15 PM

ASTRONOMY THROUGH THE AGES

ADMIT ONE

Join Park Ranger Kevin Doxstater for a journey through 30,000 years of awe & wonder as we humans have pondered our place in the Universe. Learn why astronomy is often called the "Mother of All Sciences".

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 8:45 PM - 9:45 PM

WHEN HOLLYWOOD GETS THE SCIENCE RIGHT

Professor Rob Owen will examine Hollywood's treatment relating to the physics of the real world. Learn why the dry equations of theoretical physics have been translated into a picture more vivid than even the experts might have understood. The real world can be even stranger than one's imagination.

ADMIT ONE

LOCATION: N. CAMPGROUND OUTDOOR THEATER
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 9:15 PM - 10:15 PM



PLANET WALK

Join a Park Ranger on a tour across the expanse of our solar system 1/10 billionth its actual size! Learn about the planets and how there's no place like home.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: NONE

LOCATION: OUTDOORS, BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER PATIO ENTRANCE



STAR LAB

Enjoy the magic of the stars in the middle of the afternoon. 20-minute programs offered from 1 - 4 pm in a special "Star Lab."

SESSION ATTENDANCE: 30 CHILDREN OR 15 ADULTS
LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM
NEW SESSION EVERY 30 MINUTES