

## Astronomy Unit Family Field Trips

### **McCormick Observatory Public Night Program**

**Next public night sessions are November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-11:00 pm and November 16<sup>th</sup> (daylight savings time) 7:00-9:00 pm.**

Check out this vimeo video tour of the McCormick Observatory given by UVA Astronomy Professor, Dr. Ed Murphy. It is amazing to hear how the astronomers measure the distance to the stars. Stars keep a different time than earth—note the machine used to tell star time.

<https://vimeo.com/124923094>

Leander McCormick Observatory is open on the FIRST and THIRD Friday nights of every month (except holidays) year round. Visitors can view celestial objects through the historic 26-inch McCormick Refractor and other smaller telescopes (weather permitting), tour the Observatory, hear a presentation by an astronomer, and see the exhibits. All faculty, postdocs and graduate students participate through a rotating schedule.

No tickets are required and advanced reservations are not necessary.

The Observatory is open from 9:00-11:00 p.m. during daylight saving time (mid March to early November) and 7:00-9:00 p.m. during eastern standard time (early November to mid March).

McCormick Observatory is located in Charlottesville on the western edge of the UVA grounds at 600 McCormick Rd, Charlottesville. Contact information: UVA astronomy Dept at 434-924-7494.



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## **Astronomy Unit Family Field Trips**

### **Solar Viewing at Ivy Creek Natural Area**

**Friday, November 2, 2018 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

Learn about our closest star at this Solar Viewing with a solar telescope. The Charlottesville Astronomical Society will present and bring their special viewing scope which will allow us to see flares and other signs of our sun without fear of blindness. We'll start at noon in the education building. Weather permitting we'll go outside at 12:30. It's like a solar eclipse made to order on the first Friday on the odd months of the year. Contact to confirm date and time Email: [kate@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:kate@ivycreekfoundation.org)  
Telephone: (434) 973-7772

### **First Fridays Under the Stars at Ivy Creek Natural Area**

(1780 Earlysville Road Charlottesville, VA)

**Friday, Dec 7, 2018 (8:00pm-10:00pm)**



Come enjoy learning about the stars and other celestial objects. We'll start with a short talk in the education program to learn about the stars and planets. Then after the skies darken volunteers will help point out constellations and nebula. Bring your telescopes and binoculars to share views of the night sky with members of the public or use those from the Charlottesville Astronomical Society. Free and open to all. Meet in the field next to the barn at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Cloudy skies will cancel the outdoor portion of this event. This event will recur on the odd months throughout the year. Contact to confirm date and time mail: [kate@ivycreekfoundation.org](mailto:kate@ivycreekfoundation.org)  
Telephone: (434) 973-7772

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## Astronomy Unit Family Field Trips

### Fan Mountain Observatory Public Night

April 2018 @ 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Check website closer to April to find out the day it is happening! This is a tremendous free opportunity.



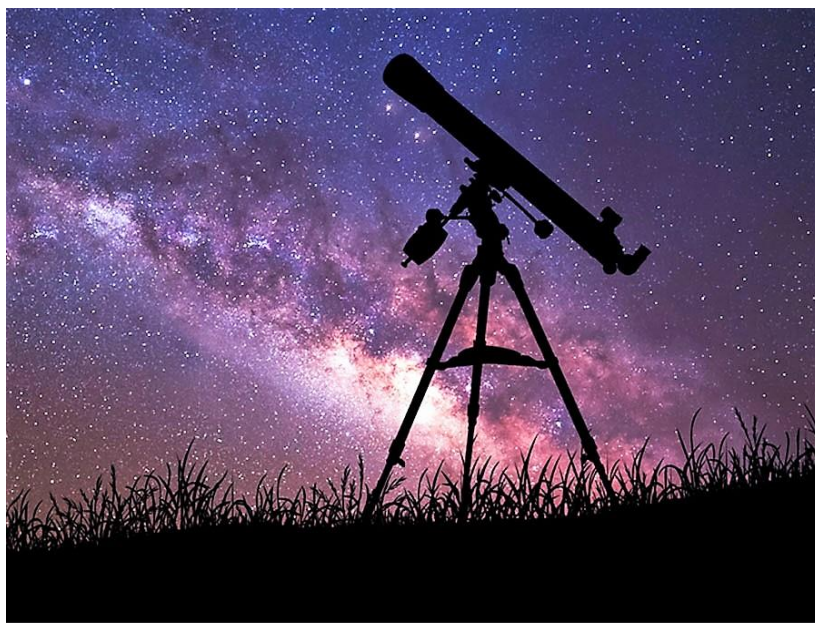
Curious about what you will see at Fan Mountain? Check this out:  
<http://astronomy.as.virginia.edu/research/observatories/fan-mountain>

Fan Mountain Observatory public nights are sponsored by the UVA dept of astronomy. Information can be found here:  
<http://astronomy.as.virginia.edu/public-outreach/observatory-public-night-program>

Each April and each October, a public night is held at the Fan Mountain Observing Station, 13 miles south of town. Tickets, which are free, are required for Fan Mountain. Each public night includes observing with all of the telescopes (weather permitting), slide shows, and tours of the Observatory. Reservations are required. To obtain free tickets (up to six), send a self-addressed stamped envelope with the number of tickets you are requesting to Fan Mountain Public Night, P.O. Box 400325, Charlottesville, VA, 22904-4325. For the April Fan Mountain Public Night, send requests starting March 1st (the supply of tickets is usually exhausted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March)

Directions: Route 29 South 14 miles to left on Fan Mountain Road. The observatory is at 5798 Fan Mountain Road, Coveseville. Call for more information.

(434-243-1885 or 434-924-7494)



## **Astronomy Unit Family Field Trips**

### **Heidi's Night**

Don't miss this tremendous free opportunity!

November 30 @ 7:30-10:00 ---free

McCormick Observatory 600 McCormick Road Charlottesville, VA 22904



The Charlottesville Astronomical Society will hold Heidi's Night Activity for students grades 4 – 12 and parents interested in Astronomy at the McCormick Observatory on the grounds of the University of Virginia. The event honors the memory CAS member Heidi Winter, former executive secretary to the Director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, who passed away in 2012. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in four activities during the evening. These include:

- A laser tour of the night sky
- A classroom astronomy activity
- Viewing the night sky through the historic 26" Clark Refractor
- View the night sky through a home built 4" telescope

Registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact CAS President, Steve Layman [slayman2528@comcast.net](mailto:slayman2528@comcast.net) In case of inclement weather, the evening may be shortened and activities would be limited to indoors.



### **John C. Wells Planetarium at James Madison University**

offers many free programs. Check out their website to see if you would like to attend something!

<http://www.jmu.edu/planetarium/saturday-show-schedule.shtml>

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