

A Typical Saturday Evening Public Observing Session

- Lecture about the featured object or topic. This 20- to 30-minute presentation, held in the SGNC picnic shelter, includes images of and details about the featured sky object or topic as well as information about other interesting objects that might be viewed that evening.
- Sky tour using a laser pointer. We step out under the stars to point out the major constellations and planets, and to designate the location of the featured celestial object for the evening if appropriate.
- Telescope observing session. We use a wide variety of telescopes at ground level to observe the wonders of the heavens. The Sugar Grove Observatory has an “open house”. Visit to see what’s happening there.

Things to Know

- Programs will be held even in the event of an overcast sky; active rain, however, will cause a cancellation of the event. On cloudy evenings the presentation will be given and tours of the Sugar Grove and/or Prairie Sky observatories will be available. Additionally, various images taken by TCAA astrophotographers will be shared via computer display in one of the observatories.
- Please dress very warmly during cooler months. These are outdoor events; none of the buildings we use are heated.
- Please be very careful when driving into and out of the Sugar Grove Nature Center parking lot. At all times there are people, including small children, walking from place to place in the dark. Please park so that your headlights are aimed away from the picnic shelter and telescopes.
- You may bring along a flashlight if you wish, but be certain to cover the lens with a red filter so that observers' dark adaptation isn't adversely affected. Please aim your flashlight at the ground only. Also, please leave pets at home.



TCAA – Serving the Bloomington-Normal Community Since 1960

<http://www.tcaa.us/>

2017

FAMILY FRIENDLY PUBLIC OBSERVING SESSIONS



AT SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

TCAA PUBLIC SKY VIEWING SESSIONS FOR 2017

Date (Sat.)	Time	Sunset
March 25	7:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM	7:14 PM CDT
April 29	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	7:50 PM CDT
May 27	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:17 PM CDT
June 24	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:30 PM CDT
July 29	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:14 PM CDT
August 26	8:00 PM ~ 10:00 PM	7:37 PM CDT
September 23	7:30 PM ~ 9:30 PM	6:51 PM CDT
October 14	7:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM	6:17 PM CDT

Sessions begin at dusk, about 30-45 minutes after sunset. At the conclusion of the talk, the sky will be dark enough for sky viewing.

If you are unfamiliar with the SGNC, we suggest that you arrive early. Our location is dark at night as there are no lights. Also, it takes about 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt to dark conditions.

When you are uncertain if a session will be held due to rain, check for updates either on Facebook (TCAA) or Twitter (@tc_astro).

Featured Sky Object or Topic by Month*

- March 25 – Orion and Company
- April 29 – Wonders of Jupiter
- May 27 – Summer Binocular Objects
- June 24 – Wonders of Saturn
- July 29 – The Total Solar Eclipse of August 21st
- August 26 – Moon and Sun
- September 23 – Emission Nebulae of the Milky Way
- October 14 – The Andromeda Galaxy

* All Additional prominent sky objects such as the moon, planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies will be viewed when visible.

