



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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EXTRAORDINARY NIGHT SKY EVENT AT LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER FEBRUARY'S TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE COULD BE A RARE & COLORFUL EXPERIENCE

Bay Village, Ohio --- February brings an uncommon lunar event to the skies above Northeast Ohio and Lake Erie Nature & Science Center has special programs all month long to preview and capture what could be a colorful experience for moon watchers. A total eclipse of the moon will occur in the evening hours of February 20. The next total eclipse doesn't come around again until December of 2010!

During a total lunar eclipse, the Earth's inner shadow blocks all direct sunlight from illuminating the moon, but indirect sunlight can reach it, according to Walter R. Schuele Planetarium Director Jay Reynolds. Depending on the amount of dust in the Earth's atmosphere, Reynolds says the resulting filtered light can turn the moon into a dramatic spectacle, with colors ranging from orange and red to dark brown or gray.

Saturdays throughout February, **Monthly SkyQuest** planetarium programs at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will explain the science and the fun behind lunar eclipses. A special Wednesday evening planetarium program will take place February 20, the night of the eclipse. The Schuele Planetarium staff will host a planetarium show at 7 p.m. and will guide visitors through the lunar event outside beginning at 8 p.m. The moon enters the umbrial (dark) shadow at 8:50 p.m. and the total eclipse begins at 10:01 p.m.

Monthly SkyQuest - Lunar Eclipse

Every Saturday at 2 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturdays (February 2 & 16) at 7 p.m., with free telescope viewing following, weather permitting

In the early evening hours on February 20, our moon will slowly glide through the shadow of the Earth, causing the moon to go dark. Will the moon actually be dark? Why is it sometimes red during an eclipse?

What can scientists still learn from an eclipse?

Fee: 2 p.m. - \$2/person

7 p.m. - \$3/person

SPECIAL EVENT - Lunar Eclipse Night

Wednesday, February 20 program

7 p.m. - Planetarium Show; 8 p.m.- Eclipse Viewing

Let our expert planetarium staff guide your discovery of a lunar event! The moon enters umbrial (dark) shadow at 8:50 p.m., total eclipse at 10 p.m.

Fee: - \$3/person

Also on tap in the Schuele Planetarium in February, the weekly line-up of star shows for all ages:

Twinkle Tots!

Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. *NEW START TIME!*

Saturdays at 11 a.m.

This is a program for the toddler in your family. See what's new in space, watch lights dance, and see some magic. This program is fun for everyone in the family! *Door closes promptly at program start time.*

Fee: \$1/person, including infants

Stellar Stars

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Saturdays at Noon

Every week, you and your little one will “blast-off” to a new planet and constellation during this interactive show. Marvel at the night sky and lasers moving to music. Learn fun facts about the solar system. Great for children 2 years and up!

Fee: \$2/child

Backyard Astronomy

Saturdays at 1 p.m.

Explore the night sky from your very own backyard! Join us as we view celestial objects in the current sky.

Fee: \$2/person

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