



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS NEXT GENERATION SPACECRAFT *Schuele Planetarium's Monthly Skyquest focuses on ARES I in July; Saturn & Perseids in August*

Bay Village, Ohio --- NASA's newest spacecraft, takes center stage in Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Walter R. Schuele Planetarium in July. "Monthly Skyquest" programs for the month will feature "Ares I, NASA's Newest Spacecraft" just as the space agency prepares to test fly its newest spacecraft.

Planetarium Director Jay Reynolds says, "We plan to show our visitors how Ares I will eventually carry astronauts to the space station, to our Moon, Mars and perhaps even an asteroid and tell them how our own NASA Glenn Research Center has contributed to this next generation of space exploration."

A special NASA speaker will present the latest on Ares I at the July 18, 8 p.m. show only. You can catch a *Monthly Skyquest* planetarium program on Saturday, July 11, 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. and on July 18 at 8 p.m. Telescopes are always out for free viewing after the 8 p.m. shows, weather permitting. Visitors should note that Lake Erie Nature & Science Center will be closed on July 4 for the holiday, so there will be NO planetarium programs that day.

In August, it's a summer sky double feature. Monthly Skyquest programs this month will ask visitors to "Say goodbye to Saturn's Rings." While Saturn gets lower in the sky each day, planetarium staff will explain why stargazers will see less and less of the actual rings of this planetary jewel and what September 4 has to do with the changing rings.

On Wednesday, August 12, the Center holds its annual Perseids Meteor Party, starting with an 8 p.m. planetarium program (\$3/person) and followed by free outdoor meteor and telescope viewing (weather permitting). You are encouraged to bring the entire family to learn about the Perseids in the planetarium. Then walk across the street, spread out a blanket, look through a telescope and enjoy the show in the sky!

You can catch an August *Monthly Skyquest* planetarium program on Saturday, August 1, 8 15, 22, and 29 at 2 p.m. and on August 1 and 15 (1st and 3rd Saturday) at 8 p.m. Telescopes will be out for free viewing after the 8 p.m. show, weather permitting. In September, the Saturday evening shows return to a 7 p.m. start.

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Also in the Schuele Planetarium in July and August:

- **Twinkle Tots** is a popular program that includes the toddler in your family. Watch lights dance across the sky and learn what's new in space. This program, on Thursdays & Saturdays at 11 a.m., is \$1 per person, including infants.
- **Stellar Stars** - Grab your passports and tour our solar system! This program is great for children 2 years and up and takes place Wednesdays at 11 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon. Tickets are \$2 per child.
- **Backyard Astronomy** delights family audiences of all ages on Fridays (until school resumes) and Saturdays at 1 p.m. Explore the late summer night sky as it appears from your very own backyard! Admission is \$2 per person.

Planetarium tickets are available at the front desk 30 minutes before the program begins on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors close promptly at the start of the show. With the exception of Twinkle Tots and Stellar Stars, programs may not be appropriate for very young children who are unable to sit through a 30-minute presentation. Monthly Skyquest is designed for older children and adults. Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, visit the Center's website at www.lensc.org or call 440- 871-2900.