



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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MOON STEERS CLEAR FOR PERSEIDS' SKY SHOW IN AUGUST LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER'S SCHUELE PLANETARIUM POINTS THE WAY

Bay Village, Ohio --- The Perseids Meteor Shower is expected to put on quite a sky show over Northeast Ohio in August and a late rising moon should produce better than average viewing conditions. The seasoned astronomy staff at Lake Erie Nature & Science Center's Walter R. Schuele Planetarium is focusing a series of programs on the celestial fireworks, capped off by a Perseids telescope viewing party on Saturday, August 11.

"Meteors may look like shooting stars, but they aren't stars at all," said Jay Reynolds, Director of the Schuele Planetarium. "In fact they're nothing more than pieces of fluff burning up as they travel at amazing speeds into the Earth's atmosphere."

Reynolds says the Perseids shower is a "consistent performer" and, weather permitting, viewing conditions should be excellent this year, since the moon will not be up in the sky during the early to late evening hours of August 11.

Schuele Planetarium shows throughout the month of August will unveil the secrets of meteors and their much larger (and scarier) cousins, the asteroids. The Saturday programs will explore the latest space science and theories about a large asteroid collision with Earth--in the past and the future. There's even a local connection to the scientists tracking the future asteroid threat.

It's Meteor Time (Asteroids' Smaller Cousins!) planetarium shows will be held on August 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 2 p.m. and on August 4, 11 & 18 at 7 p.m. The fee for 2 p.m. shows is \$2. The 7 p.m. entry fee is \$3.

The August 11 *Perseids Night* also will begin with a show inside the world-class Schuele Planetarium at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and seating is limited. Other activities are free, including telescope viewing and even a few earth-based wild creatures from the Center's wildlife program. Families are invited to bring blankets and binoculars. Food and drink will be available at a nominal cost.

Throughout the month, the regular line-up of planetarium programs for families will include topical information about "shooting stars" as well. Additional family programs for August include:

Twinkle Tots!

Thursdays & Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Fee: \$1 per person (including infants)

This is a program for the toddler in your family. Watch lights dance across the sky, see some magic and learn what's new in space! Door closes promptly at 11 a.m.

Stellar Stars

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. & Saturdays at Noon

Fee: children \$2

You and your little one will marvel at the starry night, watch lasers moving to music, and learn fun facts about the solar system. Take home a planet picture to color and add a sticker to your passport.

Backyard Astronomy

Fridays at Noon & Saturdays at 1 p.m.

Fee: \$2 per person

Join us as we view constellations and other celestial objects that can be found in our own night sky.