While you are here, we invite your class to come see one of our kid friendly planetarium shows. We have numerous shows to pick from, ranging from 1st grade level all the way to 12th grade. The best part is there is no extra charge to visit the planetarium and your students will love it!

Sky Tonight– All grades (15-30 minutes) **This is called *First Stars* for Pre-K**

- Shows the constellations that are in the night sky that night
- Full dome shows are about 15 minutes, Live shows are between 20-30 minutes

New Horizons for a Little Planet – Grades K-2 (6 minutes)

- Space mission to Pluto and Kuiper Belt (Please note, this film was made BEFORE we reached Pluto)

One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure – Grades Pre K-3 (25 minutes)

- Learn about the Big Dipper, the North Star, the Sun, and the Moon.

The Little Star That Could – Grades K-3 (37 minutes)

- Learn how stars are born, how stars die, and why stars are different colors
- Brief discussion about planets

Rusty Rocket's Last Blast – Grades 1-5 (35 minutes)

- Learn about our solar system and famous space crafts.
- Emphasizes the immense distances between the planets using cars and jets for comparison

Earth, Moon & Sun – Grades 2-5 (30 minutes)

- Learn about the relationship between the Earth, Moon and Sun
- Learn ancient Native American star stories

Flight Adventures – Grades 3-8 (30 minutes)

- Learn how birds, kites, planes, and models fly
- Learn about the history and future of flight with NASA

Two Small Pieces of Glass – Grades 4-12 (25 minutes)

- Learn how a telescope works
- Learn the history behind a telescope

Back to the Moon for Good – Grades 4-12 (25 minutes)

- Learn about the world's race to the Moon

Nine Planets and Counting – Grades 4-12 (40 minutes)

- Learn what exactly is a planet
- Explore each planet's characteristics

Season of Light – Grades 4-12 (40 minutes)

- Learn about the Winter Solstice and the origins of holiday traditions
- Possible explanation for the famous Star of Bethlehem

Black Holes – Grades 5-12 (30 minutes)

- Learn how black holes form and their strange properties

STARS – Grades 5-12 (27 minutes)

- Learn about how stars form
- It is recommended the students have some background knowledge of stars before seeing this show

Infinity Express – Grades 5-12 (30 minutes)

- Learn about breakthroughs in our quest to understand the universe

IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System – Grades 7-12 (30 minutes)

- Investigate the boundary between our Solar System and the rest of our galaxy.
- This show follows the creation of NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX)

DARK – Grades 9-12 (20 minutes)

- Learn about the nature of Dark Matter
- Learn why the Universe is as it is, where it came from, and how it has evolved over billions of years.

Full Show Descriptions

Sky Shows
These shows are done live, making each show a unique and thrilling experience for any class.

The Sky Tonight
Grades K-12 (30-45 minutes)
Our version of the traditional planetarium show: a live, interactive tour of the current sky. Your show presenter points out the bright stars, constellations, planets, and any unusual sights that await the stargazer. Questions from the audience are encouraged after the show. This show is adapted for different grades and levels of interest.

First Stars
Grade Pre-K (about 15 minutes)
A shortened version of The Sky Tonight for very young sky watchers introduces the planetarium and its starry sky. This show begins with a sunset and ends with sunrise.

Full Dome Shows
Full dome shows are pre-recorded and include a video image covering nearly the entire dome. A short Sky Tonight Full Dome may be added at the close of the full dome show if desired.

One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure
Grades Pre K-3 (25 minutes)
Explore the night sky with your friends from Sesame Street. Follow along with Big Bird, Elmo, and their friend from China, Hu Hu Zhu, as they take you on a journey of discovery to learn about the Big Dipper, the North Star, the Sun, and the Moon.

The Little Star That Could
Grades K-3 (37 minutes)
This show tells the story of a star searching for his planets. Along the way, the Little Star discovers how stars are born, how stars die, and why stars are different colors. Near the end of his search, the Little Star finds out about planets. An old favorite that looks as good as ever in full dome!

Rusty Rocket's Last Blast
Grades 1-5 (35 minutes)
After decades of teaching the basics of rocket physics, Rusty Rocket has decided this will be his last blast, and he already has plans for how he will spend his free time. Still there is one final mission to command: an introductory tour of the solar system for a new class of rocket rookies focusing on the wide variety of planetary environments. Along the way, we learn Rusty is related to every famous spacecraft to explore the solar system. He also emphasizes the immense distances between the planets using cars and jets for comparison.

Earth, Moon & Sun
Grades 2-5 (30 minutes)
This full dome program explores the relationship between the Earth, Moon and Sun with the help of Coyote, a fun character adapted from Native American oral traditions. Why does the Sun rise and set? What's fusion and solar energy? Examine the Moon's orbit, craters, phases and eclipses. Also take a look at space travel to the Moon – and beyond.

Flight Adventures

Grades 3-8 (30 minutes)

Discover the science of flight through the eyes of a young girl and her grandfather as they explore how birds, kites, planes, and models fly. Learn about the history and future of flight and how NASA is discovering new and safer ways to travel with the help of future engineers and aviators – like you!

Two Small Pieces of Glass

Grades 3-12 (35 minutes)

Join a modern star party and discover the wonders that even a small amateur telescope can reveal. See how Galileo Galilei built a "spyglass" and first aimed it to the heavens over 400 years ago.

Back to the Moon for Good

Immerse yourself in a race to return to the Moon 40 years after the historic Apollo landings. See how a competition among privately funded international teams is ushering in a new era of lunar exploration. Learn about the Moon's resources and discover what humanity's future on the Moon might hold.

Nine Planets and Counting

Grades 4-12 (40 minutes)

There are currently eight official planets in our Solar System. But, what exactly is a planet? Discover the answer to this question with a journey through the Solar System, visiting each planet as well as other objects in our solar neighborhood. This show was produced in 2006 just before Pluto was demoted to dwarf planet status.

Season of Light

Grades 4-12 (40 minutes)

Formerly 'Tis the Season, this popular holiday show has been renamed for full dome. Here we discuss the Winter Solstice and the origins of holiday traditions, concluding with a possible explanation for the famous Star of Bethlehem.

Black Holes

Grades 5-12 (30 minutes)

Some of the most bizarre, enigmatic objects known, black holes defy the imagination. In this show, we explore how black holes form, their strange properties, and what exactly would happen if one got too close! Very highly recommended.

STARS

Grades 5-12 (27 minutes)

Some stars last a billion years while others burn only for a short time. New ones are born every day. Experience the awesome beauty and destructive power of stars.

Infinity Express

Grades 5-12 (30 minutes)

A remarkable blend of science, art, and entertainment, this show dramatically communicates the latest breakthroughs in our quest to understand the universe. Some of the best Hubble Space Telescope images are also shown in a fascinating gallery view.

IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System

Grades 7-12 (30 minutes)

Join scientists who are investigating the boundary between our Solar System and the rest of our galaxy. This show follows the creation of NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX). Audiences will get an in-depth look at the mission and how IBEX is collecting high-speed atoms to create a map of our Solar System's boundary.

DARK

Grades 9-12 (20 minutes)

This full dome show explains and explores the nature of Dark Matter, the missing 80% of the mass of the Universe. Finding answers will help us understand why the Universe is as it is, where it came from, and how it has evolved over billions of years.

Other Activities

Solar Observing

Grades 4-12 (approximately 20 minutes)

Participants safely view our nearest star, the Sun, in three different ways: with the unaided eye, through a telescope equipped with a white-light solar filter (revealing sunspots, if any, on the disk), then finally through a hydrogen-alpha filter, allowing us to see the spectacular prominences along the Sun's limb. (The outside temperature must be at least 30° F for the h-alpha filter to operate properly). This activity is recommended for groups of 20 people or less.