

Casper Planetarium

The Casper Planetarium is part of the Natrona County School District, and as such, classroom visits for our students and teachers are free. We offer a wide range of shows that are suitable for groups from preschool through high school. One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure is perfect for young children who know and love the characters from Sesame Street. Earth, Moon, and Sun is an entertaining, yet informative, program that is well suited for upper-elementary students. For older students, Black Holes gives a taste of the awesomeness and mystery of our universe. Many teachers feel that a trip to the planetarium is a great way to enhance a space unit in their classroom.

Visits to the planetarium are important. Certain

grade levels are scheduled to come to the planetarium to cover essential curriculum topics. Planetarium staff members develop demonstrations and assign shows to help students become familiar with material that will likely appear on state assessments.

The staff of the Casper Planetarium is also available for classroom visits. These visits are intended to reinforce and deepen understanding about concepts discussed during fieldtrips to the planetarium. We are happy to make other classroom visits to deliver lessons on any astronomy topic if a teacher has specific idea in mind. Finally, if a teacher is just looking for materials to help teach a space unit in the classroom, the planetarium has several



Arp 274 is a pair of galaxies. The spiral shapes of these galaxies are mostly intact, but evidence can be seen of the gravitational distortions they are creating within each other. When galaxies interact and merge together, the gas clouds inside them often form tremendous numbers of new stars.

GEMS trunks for grades 4-12 that we are always happy to loan out on a first come, first served basis.

Even if astronomy is not a subject that you teach,

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Astronaut

Experience a rocket launch from inside the body of an astronaut. Explore the amazing worlds of space, from the International Space Station to the microscopic regions of the human body. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m., March 15 to June 4.

Earth's Wild Ride

In the near future, a man and his grandchildren are living on the moon. Learn about the Earth's history: raging rivers, flowing lava, an ice age winter, and a close encounter with a dinosaur. Saturdays, 7 p.m., March 15 to June 4.

Amazing Astronomers of Antiquity

Discover how the Pantheon is an astronomical instrument, how Eratosthenes measured the Earth's circumference, how the Saqqara Step Pyramid depicts the turning stars, and who created the Antikythera Mechanism. Saturdays, 8 p.m., March 15 to June 4.

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accomplish every day," says NHTIC volunteer coordinator, Jason Vlcan.

To become a volunteer, (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/NHTIC/help.html>) all you need is the willingness to give your time freely to benefit others and our community. Anyone can offer their time. It can be as little or as much as you can spare. You may be working, retired, older, or even a student still. Volunteers come from all walks of life and all sections of our community. Everyone, including you, can make a difference. Will

you be retiring soon and want to stay involved with the schools? Do you have students who love history and would be willing to teach others? Would you like to make a difference in our community? If so, don't hesitate. Give us a call at (307) 261-7783 and ask for Jason. We are very happy to talk to you about the endless possibilities of volunteering!

Quilting Exhibit: Warmth for the Body and Soul ***(March 1-April 30)***

The NHTIC is recognizing Women's History Month with a temporary exhibit, "Quilts: Warmth for the Body and Soul." The exhibit features

over 25 quilts, including traditional and artistic patterns.

Pioneer women carefully sewed together scraps of fabric and pieces of cloth to create quilts which provided warmth for their families on the long trek westward. Quilts were a practical excuse for women to socialize while also being productive. Further, the designs also offered women a way to express themselves with color, cloth and shape. Every quilt has a story. When viewing a quilt, you learn about the maker and as well as the intended recipient. Each quilt in this exhibit has a unique story -- for you to discover.

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objects, audiovisual materials, books and activities that your students can see and touch. The Educator's Guide includes background information, lessons, activities and a bibliography. Topics include Plains Indians, Explorers, Mountain Men, Pioneers, Frontier Army, and Cowboys.

** Meets fourth-grade essential curriculum for social studies and language arts.*

Availability: All Year

Rental: One week, Friday - Thursday. May be checked out for more than one week depending on availability.

Fee: \$2.00 per trunk; cash, check, credit card or LPOs accepted More information and details are available on our website at www.fortcasparwyoming.com. Click on Links for Teachers or School Programs.

Contact Curator of Education Erin Rose by phone at 235-8462 or by email at erose@cityofcasparwy.com to make a reservation.

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the Planetarium may have resources for you. Several of our shows have a strong history component that educators have wanted to share with their students. Dawn of the Space Age chronicles the space race.

Galileo: Power of the Telescope takes a close look at the Renaissance and how our thinking has changed over time. Spirits from the Sky discusses Native American sky lore, specifically of the Pawnee. Legends of the Night Sky: Orion tells the Greek story of Orion in a light-

hearted way. Earth's Wild Ride involves geology and paleontology in its story about our planet.

The Casper Planetarium's fundamental purpose is to serve as a resource for NCSD students and educators. Please take advantage of all we have to offer!