

40 Years



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
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NJMC NEWS RELEASE

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NJMC Offers Astronomy Programs, Heavenly Views for Stargazers

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is the place to be for stargazers in the coming months, with public programs at the Meadowlands Environment Center and open viewing nights at the NJMC’s William D. McDowell Observatory offering opportunities to explore stars near and far.

The NJMC will host “Here Comes the Sun” on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Meadowlands Environment Center. The informative, family workshop will focus on our nearest star, including how it supports and affects life on Earth, and includes an opportunity to view the sun using special 3D glasses. The program costs \$4 for MEC members and \$5 for the general public.

In addition to learning about the sun, visitors can discover the wonders of the night sky at the William D. McDowell Observatory, which hosts free public viewing sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 8 and 9 p.m. The observatory features a 20-inch, research-grade telescope fitted with light-pollution filters that give an optimal view of the galaxy. Jupiter is a main attraction throughout November.

“The NJMC’s top-notch educational programming and modern facilities provide an excellent and affordable resource for the entire family,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “We encourage residents to take advantage of these programs, the observatory and all the Commission has to offer.”

More than 2,000 people have enjoyed the unique view of the galaxy from the observatory since it opened to the public in September 2008. The observatory also offers “Let’s Talk Astronomy,” a series of Tuesday night learning sessions that run from 7 to 9 p.m. and focus on different aspects of astronomy. Each three-week session costs \$15 and is free for MEC members.

“Astronomy is a wide-ranging and inspiring science that helps us understand and appreciate our world and the universe beyond,” said Dr. John Sloan, director of the William D. McDowell Observatory. “We have received a great response to our public viewing sessions and discussion series and look forward to many more exciting nights at the observatory.”

Astronomy is also incorporated into the MEC's programming for local school districts through its programs on the sun, solar energy and stars. On Dec. 8-9 the MEC will host an Astronomy Convocation for a group of fifth and sixth-graders from the Hudson County Gifted & Talented Consortium. The students will explore sun dials, telescopes and the anatomy of the sun.

To learn more about the MEC's public programming and the William D. McDowell Observatory, log on to www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec or call 201-460-8300.

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