



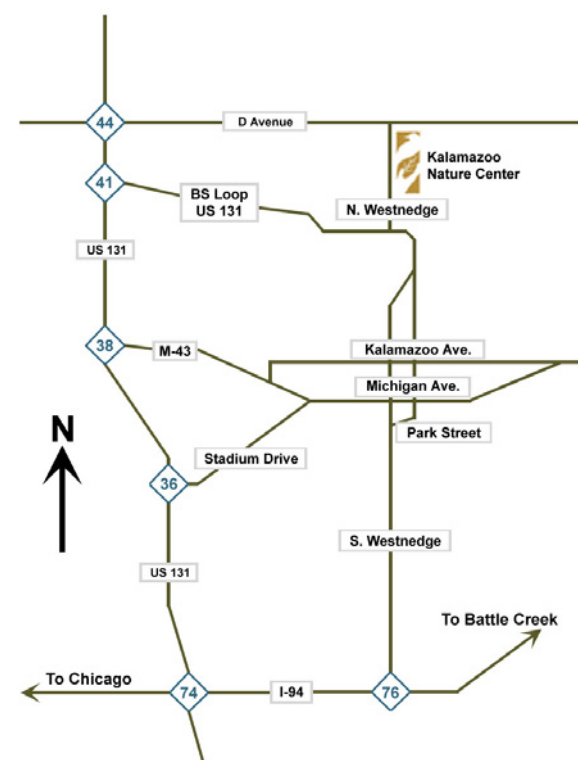
2012 Public Observing Session Schedule

at the Kalamazoo Nature Center
7000 North Westnedge Ave.

DATE	GATES OPEN	FEATURES of the NIGHT
April 14	8:00 pm	Venus, Mars & Saturn
April 21	8:00 pm	Astronomy Day
May 12	8:30 pm	Galaxies of the Virgo Cluster
May 26	8:30 pm	Moon, Mars & Saturn
June 9	9:00 pm	Grand Globular Clusters
June 23	9:00 pm	Super Summer Nebulae
July 14	9:00 pm	Pleasant Planetary Nebula
July 28	9:00 pm	Moon & Double Stars
August 11	8:30 pm	Perseid Meteor Shower
August 25	8:30 pm	Moon, Uranus & Neptune
September 8	8:00 pm	The Summer Triangle
September 22	8:00 pm	Overwhelming Open Clusters
October 6	7:00 pm	Jupiter & Galaxies of Autumn
October 20	7:00 pm	Jupiter & The Great Square

Sessions will be canceled if the sky is mostly cloudy or overcast. For cancellation information, please visit our website or call the Nature Center at (269) 381-1574. The start times listed above are about 30 minutes before sunset, so members and guests have time to setup their equipment. **Observing begins approximately 30-45 minutes later than the time shown above.** Visitors should be prepared for chilly weather (even during the summer). Be sure to also bring along some bug spray and a comfortable lawn chair so that you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the view!

Nature Center Directions...



From US 131:
Exit at **D Avenue (Exit 44)** and travel approximately 4 miles east on D Avenue to **N. Westnedge**. Turn right on **N. Westnedge** and go approximately one mile and turn left at the Kalamazoo Nature Center sign.

From Interstate 94:
Exit at **US 131 North (Exit 74)** and follow the above directions.

From downtown Kalamazoo:
Follow **Park Street** north through downtown Kalamazoo. Park Street will turn into **Business Loop 131**. Follow sign to the right directing you to **N. Westnedge Avenue** and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Follow N. Westnedge approximately 3 miles and turn right at the Kalamazoo Nature Center sign, just past **E Avenue**.



Kalamazoo Astronomical Society
Looking Up Since 1936

Observing Sessions



at the
Kalamazoo Nature Center



www.kasonline.org

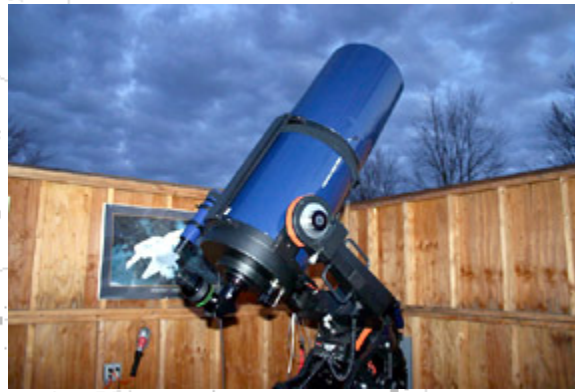
A Night Under the Stars...

In the fading light of a clear evening, we watch the stars appear. One by one they fill the night sky. Before long, the heavens are filled with innumerable points of ancient light. The stars appear to be grouped into patterns; the Big Dipper, Orion the Hunter, Cygnus the Swan, and more.

A telescope can take us further. Craters and mountains on the Moon, Jupiter's Great Red Spot, and the rings of Saturn fill us with awe and wonder. Much more distant are the deep sky objects; double stars, star clusters, nebulae, and the galaxies. They all await you at the Kalamazoo Nature Center!

The Kalamazoo Astronomical Society (KAS) invites you to witness nature's grandest spectacle - the universe itself! From April through October the KAS welcomes the general public to join us under the stars for a night of stargazing. Telescopes of all shapes and sizes will be set up for your viewing pleasure near Owl Observatory, located on the grounds of the Nature Center.

The heart of Owl Observatory is a Meade 12" LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope. It is computer controlled, permitting quick, automatic access to thousands of stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. Accurate tracking for viewing and astrophotography is provided by an equatorial platform. The observatory is open during every public observing session.



The Meade 12" Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope.

Telescope Clinic...

Do you have a telescope that you would like to learn how to operate or get help with setting up? KAS members will be on hand at the start of each session to give you a one on one tutorial. Learn how to properly assemble and balance your telescope, align the finderscope and computer, and choose the appropriate eyepieces. We can even help you learn how to find objects in the sky!

Please arrive as soon as the gates open, so we can help you set up and use your telescope before it gets too dark. Consult the schedule for start times.



Constellation Workshop...

Would you like to learn how to identify bright stars and major constellations? During each observing session, one of our veteran stargazers will teach participants to find those elusive patterns in the sky with a simple monthly star map, which will be provided by the KAS.

A green laser pointer that projects a visible beam into the sky will be used to trace out the constellations and asterisms. Just like at a planetarium - only under the real night sky!



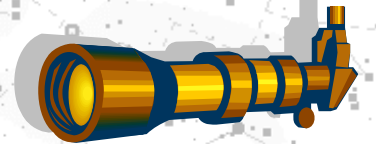
Red Lights at Night...

Visitors should bring a flashlight with **RED** light to use for the walk from the parking lot to the observatory and for reading star maps. This can be as simple as covering the front of a regular flashlight with several layers of red plastic. No white lights or automobile lights are allowed near the observing area after dusk. Use **RED** flashlights to preserve night vision and please keep them pointed downward!

Rules of Conduct...

Public Observing Sessions are held to promote astronomy and for your enjoyment of the sky. In order to insure safety, protect equipment, and to enhance everyone's enjoyment, we ask that you follow the Code of Conduct:

- ★ Pets are not permitted on the Nature Center grounds.
- ★ Smoking and alcoholic beverages are never permitted within the Kalamazoo Nature Center.
- ★ Minors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.
- ★ Aerosol bug spray repellent may only be applied away from the telescopes. (Sprays produce a fine mist which can settle on optical surfaces and is very difficult to clean.)
- ★ Remove any trash and keep the premises clean.



Admission...

The KAS does not charge for its public observing sessions. However, the Nature Center does reserve the right to collect an admission fee. (KAS and KNC members are guaranteed free admission with their membership cards.) Please visit www.naturecenter.org for details.