

Summer 2024 Stargazing Programs at the

John Glenn Astronomy Park



The John Glenn astronomy Park (JGAP) is open at all times (*with the exception of our program nights, see below*) for people to enjoy views of sky, day or night. Just drive up!

On clear Friday and Saturday nights, from March through November, we do “guided stargazing” programs starting at sunset. (*Check times listed below.*) These often involve a laser-guided “tour” of the constellations and features of the sky. Volunteers bring, or “adopt” telescopes for the evening and share views in our telescope. Visitors to our programs can get in line for a view through our enormous “Wow!” telescope in our observatory when conditions are favorable. On many nights astro-imagers on site will share live views of celestial objects on their computer screens.

Please note: Because our parking space is limited, **we require visitors to our Friday and Saturday night programs to secure a free parking pass for the early evening hours.** Please respect this requirement to ensure that we do not run out parking space for those who have pre-planned a trip to JGAP. *Space is infinite, our parking area is not.*

Get one at: registration.jgap.org

Additional parking passes are frequently posted a few days before each event. Watch for them at the bottom of the list.

Visitors to the Hocking Hills Lodge and the Hocking Hills State Park Cabins (immediately alongside JGAP) are welcome to walk over without a pass.

Here’s what to expect at our programs this Summer:

June 21 First full day of Summer

Come learn how astronomers define the first day of summer. See the alignment of the sun with our Summer Solstice window. Also, the full moon rises right at sunset. Main program starts 9:15 PM

June 22 Second full day of summer

Come learn how astronomers define summer. See the alignment of the sun with our Summer Solstice window. Come see the sun through one of our solar telescopes at 7:00 PM before the program starts. The full moon rises before it is fully dark. Main program starts 9:15 PM

June 28 The Scorpion rises.

As it gets fully dark this week, Scorpius, the Scorpion, Rises. Sky is fully dark at around 11:00 PM. Main program starts 9:15 PM

July 29 The Scorpion rises

As it gets fully dark this week, Scorpius, the Scorpion, Rises. Sky is fully dark at around 11:00 PM. We’ll be observing the sun through our solar telescopes at 7:00 PM if you’d like to arrive early. Main program starts 9:15 PM

July 5 Celestial Fireworks!

Come learn about stars that go “Boom!” and one in particular that *might* burst into view later on this year. Main program starts 9:15 PM

July 6 Celestial Fireworks!

Come learn about stars that go “Boom!” and one in particular that *might* burst into view later on this year. We’ll be observing the sun through our solar telescopes at 7:00 PM if you’d like to arrive early. Main program starts 9:15 PM

July 12-13. The rugged first quarter moon

The best time to view the moon is during “first quarter” when the terminator (the line between night and day) runs down its middle. Main program starts at 9:00 PM

July 19-20 Bright Gibbous Moon

When it comes to the moon, “Gibbous” means “almost full”. The bright, nearly full, moon will be on the docket tonight not long after sunset. A good program for kids who are willing to stay up a bit later than usual. Program starts 9:00 PM

July 26-27 The Milky Way!

With the moon out of the way, we can admire the Milky Way arcing high overhead as soon as it is dark. Come learn about our home galaxy. Program starts 9:00 PM

August 2-3 Stellar Nurseries

Under a dark, moonless sky, the numerous “stellar nurseries” that line the arc of the Milky Way are easily seen. These cottony clouds of gas and dust are where new stars are being born. Also, learn where the supermassive black hole at the heart of our galaxy lurks. Program starts 8:45 PM

August 9-10 Perseid Preview

Come learn about meteor showers and get info about the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower, which peaks during the morning hours the following Monday. Also, a rugged crescent moon. Program starts 8:45 PM

August 16-17 My favorite Crater, Gassendi

The not-quite-full moon reveals one of its most compelling craters, which tells the story of the Moon's History. Program starts 8:30 PM

August 23-24 More Marvelous Milky Way!

Cygnus the Swan, Aquila the Eagle, Scutum the Shield, and Sagittarius the Archer are arcing high overhead as soon as it is dark tonight. Program Starts at 8:15 PM

August 30-31 Cygnus the Swan

A stellar nursery, star clusters, a marvelous colorful double star, and the remnants of a supernova blast, the Celestial Swan has it all! Program Starts 8:00 PM

September 6-7 Celestial Recycling Rings

Stars like our sun blow huge, donut shaped “smoke rings” when they finally die. Come learn about the fate of our home star, and see a few examples of the stellar recycling that they do. Program Starts 8:00 PM

September 13-14 Lunar Craters

Great craters like Copernicus, Plato, and Tycho are in stark relief this weekend. Come learn how huge they are and how they formed. Saturn is also high enough to see by around 10:30. Program starts 7:30 PM

September 20-21 Summer's End

The last days of summer present us with dark skies after sunset, and the Milky-Way. Stick around until 10:30 to see Saturn rising in the east. Program starts at 7:30 PM

Because our programs are about the stars, they are dependent on weather. They will be called off on rainy or cloudy evenings. Please check the hour-by-hour weather forecast before setting out.

We post notice of whether or not an evening's program will go forward on our website, JGAP.org, and our Facebook Page “John Glenn Astronomy Park”, by noon on the same day as the program.

I also recommend checking:

Weather.gov

Put “Logan, OH” into the search bar.

On non-program nights, visitors are welcome to visit JGAP to enjoy the night sky on their own. No pass is needed. Bring telescopes, cameras, binoculars, lawn chairs, or just your eyes.

As astronomers say, *Clear Skies!*



The John Glenn Astronomy Park is brought to you by the Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park a non-profit (501c3) membership organization for people who love the Hocking Hills and take special interest in improving Park features and preserving it for the enjoyment of future generations.

If you'd like support the mission of The Friends go to

<http://www.friendsofhockinghills.org/>

or scan the QR code at right.

