

Fall 2026 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 through the weekend before Thanksgiving, 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 through 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 of 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 as the program approaches.

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

If you have your own telescope, binoculars, or just two eyes that love to gaze upon the stars, you are free to drive into JGAP on a *non-program* night without a parking pass. Clear, moonless nights show off the dark skies of the Hocking Hills the best.

Here's what to expect at our programs this Fall:



Saturn is well placed for viewing all fall.

September 25: Harvest Moon. The first full moon after the fall equinox is traditionally known in the West as “The Harvest Moon”. Come see its lovely glow as it rises in the east this weekend, and see how it gives far more light than one would think. 7:15 PM

September 26: SPECIAL EVENT: Cosmic Concert. Join JGAP and the Hocking Valley Community Orchestra for an evening of music and stars. This is a fundraiser to help support the HHCO and the programs we do at JGAP. Arrival at 6:00 PM, Concert at 7:00 PM

October 2-3: The Andromeda Galaxy. The most distant object visible to the unaided eye is a tiny, blurry, blob of light in the constellation Andromeda. That small blob is the largest galaxy in our local group, a collection of nearly a trillion stars 2.5 million light years away. 7:15 PM

October 9-10: Dark Fall Skies. Early fall in Ohio often has the clearest skies. This weekend, with no moon, the stars will be gloriously clear. Come explore the celestial wonders along the Milky Way with us. 7:00 PM

October 16-17: The Vain Queen. The story of the vain Queen Cassiopeia is one of the many Greek myths enshrined in the traditional western constellations. Come learn her tale, and join us to view some of the many, lovely star clusters in the celestial figure named for her. 6:45 PM

October 23-24: The Color of Moonlight. Do you see moonlight as grey, white, a silvery blue? Come learn the true colors of moonlight as we gaze upon it rising over our plaza. Also, Saturn will be well placed for observation. 6:45 PM

October 30-31: The Horse and the Foal. The giant Pegasus, the winged horse, and its foal, Equuleus, are rising high in the evening at the end of October. This part of the sky looks out upon galaxies and a stunning globular cluster, M15. 6:30 PM

November 6-7: The Goat and the Water Carrier. Two zodiacal constellations grace the southern skies at this time of year: Capricornus and Aquarius. Looking into this region of space we encounter galaxies, a few glittering globular clusters, and a nebula known informally as "The Eye of God." 5:30 PM EST

November 13-14: Earthshine. The thin crescent moon holds a wondrous sight, a pale glow which some call "Da Vinci Glow" after Leonardo DaVinci, who explained it. Also, Saturn is at its best this month. 5:15 PM EST

November 20-21: Rugged Moon, Ringed Saturn. The bright gibbous moon and the ringed planet Saturn rise together this weekend. Both are amongst the most eye-catching sights in our telescopes. 5:15 PM EST



M33 is part of the Local Group of galaxies of which our Milky Way is a member.

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.

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 to support the mission of The Friends go to

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

or scan the QR code at left.

