



Michelle Nichols
astroeducator@aol.com
www.astroeducator.com

All programs are appropriate for adults. If children wish to attend, it is at the discretion of their parents or guardians, though a general recommendation is that these programs would be appropriate for children ages 10 and up.

Need some presentation ideas if it's the first time I will be presenting a program for your location? Look for presentations marked by ** for my recommendations. These are programs that traditionally and consistently have brought in the largest audiences over the past 20+ years.

Don't see a topic you are interested in? Let me know if you have a theme to help connect to other programs you are offering. I can suggest programs – or I may be able to create a new program for you!

Our Solar System

Icy Worlds

Ice: it's not just the stuff you shovel off the sidewalk. Many different ices are all over our Solar System – and it is really – ahem – *cool* stuff to study. We'll investigate ices on hot planets and cold comets, moons made of a huge amount of ice, flowing and floating ice glaciers, and even ice volcanoes.

****Roving the Red Planet**

There are currently 6 U.S. spacecraft on or orbiting Mars right now, as well as spacecraft from India, China, Europe, and the United Arab Emirates. What have we learned about the Red Planet with decades of robotic visitors? Plenty! We'll cover the past, present, and future of Martian exploration.

Pluto Revealed

Before 2015, Pluto was mostly unknown to us. Now, thanks to a flyby from NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, we now know Pluto as one of the most dynamic - and strange! - places in the entire Solar System. How strange? Let's find out!

****Armchair Tour of the Solar System**

Explore our Solar System without stepping foot outside! We will showcase some of the latest NASA spacecraft images of our Solar System, touching on our stunning Sun, planets, asteroids, comets, and everything in between. *Note: This program can be presented as a stand-alone program or as Part 1 of a two-part series with Armchair Tour of the Universe (see below).*

(more below)

Past, Present, and Future

The Space Race

In the 1960s, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were locked in a race to send men to the Moon. How did it all begin? How did the Soviets try to beat the Americans? And, what happened to the Soviet effort after Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the Moon in July 1969? Let's relive the Space Race!

Women in Astronomy

Women have played a part in astronomical discoveries for centuries – but many of their stories are overlooked or untold. We will explore advancements made by several ladies of science, as well as the hardships they had to overcome to be able to explore the Universe.

Coming in late 2021: **Women in Space Exploration**

Women have been traveling to space for decades, and women have been involved in getting people to space – and returning them safely to Earth – for just as long. Learn more about several of these trailblazers.

Space Food

This presentation will highlight the development of space eats from the earliest days of space travel, show how food is eaten – and grown! - on the International Space Station today, and what food might look like for future long-term space missions.

Space News Roundup

What's the latest news in astronomy and space exploration? We will highlight the most recent space science discoveries that are making headlines.

The Future of Space Exploration

What is around the corner for space exploration? Is space tourism really happening, or is it still in the realm of *The Jetsons*? And when might we finally land humans on Mars? We'll explore answers to these questions and more as we look toward the future of robots and people in space.

The Science of Climate Change

The concept of climate change is a hot topic these days. In this presentation, we will turn our attention to the science evidence: What does science say is happening? Where does the data come from? What might be in our future?

The Great North American Eclipse

Did you see the solar eclipse in 2017? Get ready to do it all over again! There are two impressive solar eclipses coming up in October 2023 and April 2024! Learn what eclipses are, where to see them, when to look, and how to view solar eclipses safely.

Astronomy Near and Far

Looking for Earth Elsewhere

We have found thousands of planets around other stars. This presentation will highlight the search for distant planets and present the most recent findings of planets which could be just like our own home planet Earth.

****Through the Eyes of Hubble**

The Hubble Space Telescope has had more impact on astronomy and the public's awareness of astronomy than any other telescope in history. This presentation will highlight recent and historic images from the last 30+ years of Hubble's mission - plus a look at Hubble's successor: the James Webb Space Telescope.

Shining a Light on Black Holes

Black holes are mysterious and amazing. Where do they come from? What happens when something falls into one? We'll take a look at these cosmic oddballs in detail.

Armchair Tour of the Universe

Go on a trip around the Universe without going outside! This presentation will take you on a whirlwind visit through our Universe's most amazing objects using images from the world's most advanced telescopes. *Note: This program can be presented as a stand-alone program or as Part 2 of a two-part series with Armchair Tour of the Solar System.*

Coming in late 2021: 12 Things that Make Life on Earth Possible

Earth has sustained life in many different forms for more than 3 billion years. We'll highlight an (incomplete) list of 12 things that make our planet special – a list that also influences what astronomers look for as they search for Earth-like planets elsewhere.

Skywatching

****Skywatching Using Your Eyes**

So much observation of our daytime and nighttime skies can be done without a telescope. This presentation will focus on an overview of celestial observations you can do with just your eyes, including Moon phases, eclipses, planets, stars, and much more in a session suited to an astronomy novice.

Note: This program will be updated for the time period of your specific program.

Coming in late 2021: Skywatching Using Binoculars

Want to take your skywatching to the next step? Try binoculars! This presentation will center on an overview of celestial observations you can do with binoculars, including Moon craters, planets, double stars, and more in a session suited to an astronomy novice.

Note: This program will be updated for the time period of your specific program.

Skywatching Using a Telescope

Bring the Universe to your neighborhood! (Your library name here) (has/soon will have) (telescopes/a telescope) for you to check out and use at home. Learn how to operate this telescope and get tips for skywatching with your eyes and with mobile phones.

Note: This program is specifically for institutions that have, or soon will have, a telescope or telescopes for patrons to check out. I will tailor my program to the model of telescope that your institution has acquired.