



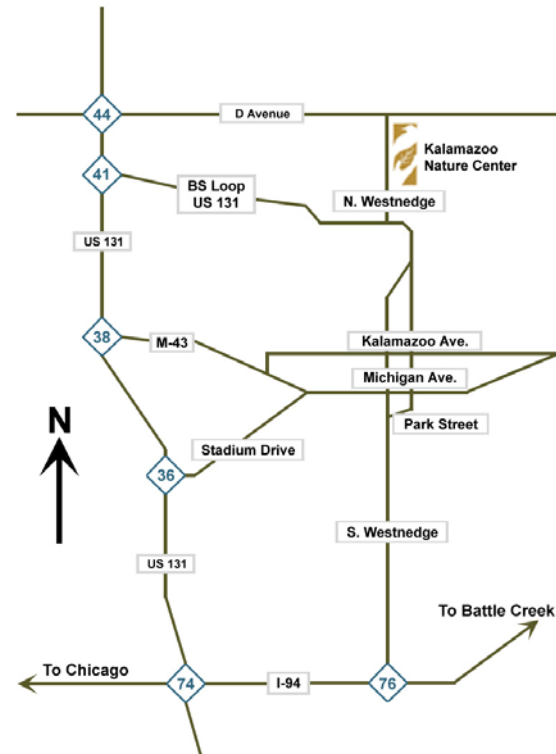
2024 Public Observing Session Schedule

at the Kalamazoo Nature Center
7000 North Westnedge Ave.

DATE	GATES OPEN	HIGHLIGHTS of the NIGHT
April	n/a	KAS on Hiatus for Total Solar Eclipse
May 4	9:00 pm	Galaxies of the Virgo Cluster
May 18	9:00 pm	The Moon & Double Stars of Spring
June 8	9:30 pm	Great Globular Clusters
June 29	9:30 pm	Super Summer Nebulae
July 13	9:30 pm	First Quarter Moon
July 27	9:30 pm	Saturn & The Summer Triangle
August 10	9:00 pm	Crescent Moon, Saturn & Perseids
August 24	9:00 pm	Saturn & Summer Clusters
September 7	8:00 pm	Crescent Moon, Venus & Saturn
September 21	8:00 pm	The Moon & Double Stars of Summer
October 12	7:00 pm	The Moon, Jupiter & Saturn
October 26	7:00 pm	Galaxies of Autumn

Sessions will be canceled if the sky is mostly cloudy or overcast. For cancellation information, please visit our website at 6:00 pm on the day of the session. The start times listed above are about 30 minutes before sunset, so members and guests have time to set up 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**, go approximately 1 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 the 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 will be 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, open and globular star clusters, nebulae, and 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 the observatory are our new 16" Schmidt-Cassegrain and 4" refracting telescopes, both mounted on an ultra-stable Astro-Physics 1600GTO German equatorial mount. The mount is computer-controlled, permitting quick, automatic access to thousands of stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. The observatory is open during every Public Observing Session.



The Meade 16" 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 night 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 how to find those elusive star patterns in the sky with a simple monthly star map, provided for free 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!



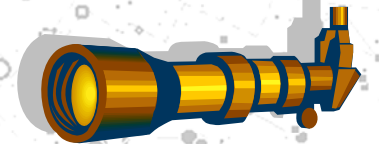
Red Lights at Night...

Visitors should bring a flashlight with a **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 ensure safety, protect equipment, and enhance everyone's enjoyment, we ask that you follow the Code of Conduct:

- ★ Pets are not permitted on the Nature Center grounds.
- ★ Smoking, vaping, and alcoholic beverages are never permitted within the 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 that 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.