

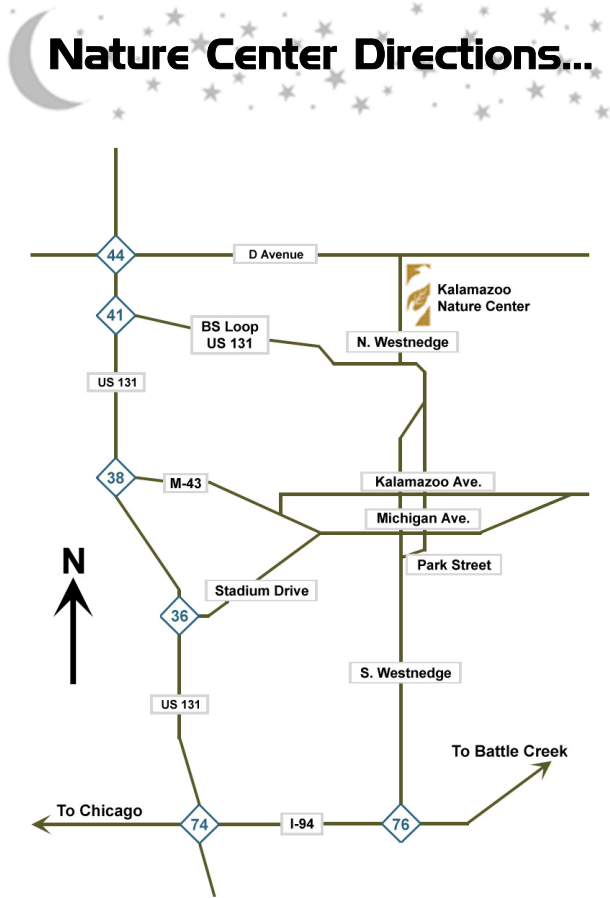


# 2026 Public Observing Session Schedule

at the Kalamazoo Nature Center  
7000 North Westnedge Ave.

DATE	GATES OPEN	HIGHLIGHTS of the NIGHT
April 4	8:00 pm	Jupiter & the Orion Nebula
April 18	8:00 pm	Galaxies of the Virgo Cluster
May 9	9:00 pm	Galaxies of the Great Bear
May 23	9:00 pm	First Quarter Moon
June 6	9:30 pm	Spring Star Clusters
June 20	9:30 pm	Great Globular Clusters
July 11	9:30 pm	Super Summer Nebulae
July 25	9:30 pm	The Moon & Double Stars of Summer
August 8	9:00 pm	Super Summer Star Clusters
August 22	9:00 pm	Waxing Gibbous Moon
September 5	8:00 pm	The Summer Triangle
September 19	8:00 pm	The Moon & Saturn
October 3	7:00 pm	The Great Square
October 17	7:00 pm	The Moon & 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 plenty of time to set up their equipment. **Observing begins approximately 30 to 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!



**From US 131:**  
Exit at **D Avenue (Exit 44)** and travel approximately 4 miles east on D Avenue to **N. Westnedge**. After turning right on **N. Westnedge**, proceed for about 1 mile before making a left turn at the 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](http://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. We will set up telescopes of all shapes and sizes for your viewing pleasure near Owl Observatory, located on the grounds of the Nature Center.

The heart of the observatory is our 16" Schmidt-Cassegrain and 4" refracting telescopes, both mounted on an ultra-stable Astro-Physics 1600GTO German equatorial mount. Computer control of the mount allows for quick, automatic access to thousands of stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. The observatory is open during every Public Observing Session.



*Our Meade 16" Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope.*

## Telescope Clinic...

Are you interested in learning how to operate your telescope or do you need help with its setup? KAS members will be available at the beginning of each session to provide one-on-one tutorials. You can learn how to properly assemble and balance your telescope, align the finderscope and computer, and select the appropriate eyepieces. We can also assist you in locating 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, our veteran stargazers will be on hand to guide participants in identifying elusive patterns in the sky using a simple monthly star map, provided by the KAS.

We will use a green laser pointer that projects a visible beam into the sky to trace out the constellations and asterisms. The experience is similar to that of a planetarium, but it takes place under the genuine night sky!



## Red Lights at Night...

Visitors should bring a flashlight with a **RED** light for both 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. After dusk, please refrain from using white lights or automobile lights near the observing area. Use **RED** flashlights to preserve night vision, and please keep them pointed downward!

## Rules of Conduct...

We hold Public Observing Sessions to promote astronomy and enhance your enjoyment of the sky. 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 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. We guarantee free admission for KAS and KNC members with their membership cards. Visit [www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org) for details.