

SCOPES FOR SCHOOLS—TEACHER WORKSHOP

Dyer Observatory, Oct. 4, 2005

Agenda

Morning Session

- 9:00 – 9:30** Introductions
Overview of *Scopes for Schools* program
Goals for today's workshop
- 9:30 – 9:45** Motivation: Some examples of what you can see with your *Scopes for Schools* telescope
- 9:45 – 10:30** Scopes for Schools outside of the classroom: How to run a star party, software and other resources
- 10:30 – 12:00** Basics of Telescopes: How they work, different types, prepare for telescope-building

Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 – 2:00** *Scopes for Schools* in the classroom: Inquiry-based activities you can use
- 2:00 – 2:15** Tour of Dyer Observatory
- 2:15 – 3:15** Brainstorming session: Doing research projects with students, using Dyer facilities, connecting with local amateur astronomers, etc.
- 3:15 – 3:30** Closing remarks, workshop evaluation

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How to Run a “Star Party”

Planning

Initial Questions:

- What’s in the sky this time of year that’s worth looking at?
- What’s the phase of the Moon on the night of interest?
- Which planets are visible, and at what time do they rise/set?
- Are any of my chosen targets better viewed through binoculars?
- Is the intended site sufficiently dark for the objects we wish to see?

Planning Tools:

- Starry Night software
- *Astronomy* or *Mercury* magazine
- Star finder

Checklist

- Telescope(s)!
- Binoculars?
- Flashlight (best with red lens)
- Finding charts for objects of interest
- Background info on targets

