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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.

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 planning. I can suggest something – or I may be able to create a new program for you.

Our Solar System

Artemis: Returning to the Moon

In the next few years, NASA will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon, exploring more of the lunar surface than ever before. The goal of Artemis is to establish the first long-term human presence on the Moon and, later, send the first astronauts to Mars. We'll discuss the future plans and technologies that will get us back to the Moon for the first time since 1972.

Wild Weather of the Solar System

Our Solar System is home to worlds with wild and interesting weather. Let's take a closer look at weather on all the planets, from mundane Mercury to windy Neptune.

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.

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...cool...stuff to study. We'll investigate ices on hot planets and cold comets, moons made mostly of ice, flowing and floating glaciers, and even ice volcanoes.

Roving the Red Planet

We've been exploring the Red Planet for decades, and there are 5 U.S. spacecraft operating at Mars right now. What have we learned about Mars with our fleet of robotic visitors? Plenty! We'll cover the past, present, and future of Martian exploration. *Note: This program is updated frequently with new science results, as available.*

Pluto Revealed

Thanks to exploration in the past few years, 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, and so much more. *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).*

Past, Present, and Future

Books That Have Moved the Universe

Books have the power to inspire thoughts and actions, and astronomy books are no different. We'll explore several of the books and authors who have advanced astronomy and space exploration across the centuries with their revolutionary world-moving words.

Constellations: Where Do They Come From?

There are 88 constellations that astronomers use to define the entire night sky. Where does the list originally come from and what are these constellations used for? We'll explore the history of how we got to this list and some of the people involved – and some of the constellations that were created and disappeared along the way.

Defining Time

What time is it? That has been a surprisingly complicated question to answer over the centuries! We'll venture through several thousand years of history in the human quest to measure and define time.

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?

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.

Women in Space Exploration

Women have been involved in getting people to space for decades. Learn about several historic, though largely unknown, 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.

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

NASA's Great Telescope

The James Webb Space Telescope has begun to fundamentally alter our understanding of black holes, the early Universe, stars, planets, and more. Learn more about this groundbreaking mission as we explore the latest stunning images from the telescope. *Note: This program is updated frequently with new science results and images, as available.*

Looking for Earth Elsewhere

We have found more than 5,000 planets around other stars in the past 26 years. Some are similar to our own home planet – and some are just plain weird. Join us for an overview of the search for distant planets and what we've found so far.

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.*

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.

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.