



We Bring the World to New Jersey

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WILLIAM D. McDOWELL OBSERVATORY REOPENS TO PUBLIC Free Weekly Viewing Sessions Every Wednesday

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA) is pleased to announce that the William D. McDowell Observatory is now open for free public viewing nights year-round on Wednesday evenings. The Observatory, which had been closed for repairs, is operated by Bergen Community College and located in DeKorte Park, the home of the NJSEA.

The Observatory is open every Wednesday evening year-round, weather permitting and excluding holidays. Hours vary by season. **Summer viewing sessions are July 6, 13, 20 and 27; and August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. All summer sessions are from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.**

Stargazers can view planets, stars, constellations and other celestial bodies through the Observatory's research grade telescope. The precision, classical cassegrain instrument has a 20-inch mirror housed beneath a six-meter retractable dome and can capture objects millions of light years away. Planets visible throughout the summer include Mars and Saturn. The constellations Arcturus and Almach are among those that will brighten the night sky.

All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. In order to access the telescope, visitors must be able to climb 25 steps in a spiral formation. The stairs have railings on either side, approximately 2 feet apart. Twenty-five people may occupy the Observatory at any one time, so entry is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Check in is at the Science Center adjacent to the Observatory.

Viewing sessions will be cancelled if there is inclement weather or cloud cover. Updates will be posted at www.njsea.com, www.meadowblog.net and on the William D. McDowell Observatory Facebook page. Follow the Observatory on Twitter @mecobservatory.

For more information on the Observatory, including a complete list of objects that can be seen during the summer, visit www.njsea.com or call 201-460-8300.

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