

Visions of the Universe

I am a self-proclaimed space geek and many of my coworkers would heartily agree with me. We have great books on the universe in the library and I love to check them out, even if it's for the brilliant images. So when I heard that the American Library Association was co-sponsoring a grant called "Visions of the Universe" I jumped at the chance to submit the library as a potential host for the exhibit. Our grant proposal was accepted and we are one of just forty-two libraries in the United States to host this fantastic exhibit!

The exhibit is made possible through the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, American Library Association, Space Science Telescope Institute, and NASA. It consists of 16 panels that portray Hubble images and drawings from noted astronomers and celebrates 400 years of astronomy, since Galileo first turned his telescope to the night sky. It will be at the library from January 18th-March 26th and can be found in the Art Print area on the ground floor.

In my last article I highlighted a few of space books we have at the library. This time I want to share our programs with you. Along with our regular programs, we are offering special events for children and adults.

On February 2nd at 11:00am in the Red Room will be "Active Galaxies: Their Story". Join us for a story time as we learn about active galaxies. Children will make and eat their active galaxy at the end. Audience: ages 5-10. Presented by Rae McEntyre, NASA Education Ambassador.

We will have two programs presented by Space Port Indiana™ in March. The first is "Comet Workshop", March 1st at 7:00pm in the Red Room. Students aged 8-13 will find this program a great opportunity to understand the makeup of comets and the reason for their formation. Space Port Indiana Mission Specialists will help students make their own comets using dry ice and other ingredients that replicate the minerals that exist in these small but dramatic pieces that travel our universe. Bring your imagination and get ready to explore the universe with Space Port Indiana!

The next program is "Survival in Space" on March 8th at 7:00pm in the Red Room. NASA has achieved many milestones over the past 40 years, but has also experienced a number of setbacks on the way to the Moon and now on to Mars. During this program participants will learn to make critical decisions as their mission to a lunar outpost falls 200 kilometers short and they must prepare to finish the mission by fixing the space craft and completing the journey. It's Apollo 13 all over again! All ages are welcome to attend.

Along with the special programs, some of our regular children's programming will highlight space. On March 19th, "Super Scientists" will talk about gravity and on March 26th "Legends & Lore" will discuss constellations.

So whether you're a space geek or not, I hope you stop by the library and check out the "Visions of the Universe" exhibit at the library and any of our great programs!

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