Lake Afton Public Observatory
General Information

The Lake Afton Public Observatory offers programs for the general public on weekend evenings throughout the year. School classes can reserve an Observatory program on Tuesday or Thursday evening and Wednesday during the day. The programs of the Observatory extend beyond its walls through in-class presentations, portable editions of exhibits, instructional astronomy games, and astronomy activities for use in the classroom.

The Lake Afton Public Observatory was created in 1979 through the cooperation of four local units of government. Construction and equipment costs were equally divided between Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita. Through 1994, the majority of the operating funds of the Observatory were shared equally by the Wichita Board of Education and Wichita State University. Since 1994 the Observatory has been operated by Wichita State University with additional funds from Sedgwick County for facilities. All programs, exhibits, and school outreach materials are designed, prepared, and presented by Observatory staff and volunteers.

The Observatory is located 20 miles southwest of downtown Wichita at MacArthur Road (39th Street South) and 247th Street West. Current program information is available in a recorded message by calling 316-WSU-STAR (978-7827) or on the web at: webs.wichita.edu/lapo.

Reach for the Stars

Become a Friend of the Lake Afton Public Observatory
Friends of the Lake Afton Public Observatory

Membership in the Friends of the Lake Afton Public Observatory will provide you with a fascinating look into the world of astronomy. Your membership benefits include:

- Free admission to all Observatory programs (including your immediate family with memberships of $30 or more).
- Four special "members-only" programs every year.
- A subscription to Skylights, the Observatory's quarterly newsletter.
- A 10% discount at the Observatory gift shop. Memberships of $30 or more also receive a $5 gift shop coupon.
- The knowledge that you are helping the Observatory to expand its educational programs and exhibits.

To become a member simply detach the membership form and mail it along with your check to Lake Afton Public Observatory, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-0032. You will receive your membership card in a couple of weeks. Thank you! (Please note that the first $30 of any membership is not tax deductible.)

Notice of Nondiscrimination:
Wichita State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Affirmative Action, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0145; telephone (316) 978-3371.