

## PREPARE FOR LAUNCH

The Cernan Earth and Space Center on the Triton College campus in River Grove offers engaging and educational programs in a wide variety of subjects and provides experiences to inspire further discovery. Astronomy and space exploration are our most popular topics, but programs can also focus on many other subjects, including biodiversity, geology, meteorology, history, paleontology, culture and much more.

This diverse range of experiences is available to schools, scouts, senior groups, camps, churches, business groups and other audiences of all ages. Group leaders should plan to spend a full hour in the Planetarium to allow plenty of time for questions, discussion and spontaneous exploration.

## CHOOSE A PROGRAM

This chart illustrates the recommended grade ranges for each program. These are not restrictions, just suggestions. To see their relationships to NGSS and Illinois Social Science standards, visit [Triton.edu/Cernan](http://Triton.edu/Cernan).

DOMES PROGRAMS	pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	HS
One World, One Sky	♦	♦	♦								
Wonderful Sky	♦	♦	♦								
Our Place in Space			♦	♦	♦						
Rusty Rocket's Last Blast			♦	♦	♦	♦					
The Stellars: Mission Green			♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
ÁRÓRA					♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Forward! To the Moon					♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Habitat Earth					♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Dawn of the Space Age						♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Dinosaurs at Dusk						♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
STARS							♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Stars of the Pharaohs							♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
To Worlds Beyond							♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
From Earth to the Universe								♦	♦	♦	♦
One Sky: Many Cultures								♦	♦	♦	♦
Supermassive Black Holes								♦	♦	♦	♦

To see the complete catalog of all programs, visit [Triton.edu/Cernan](http://Triton.edu/Cernan).

### Visit the Space Center in Advance for Free

Teachers are welcome and encouraged to visit the Planetarium and ask questions before booking a reservation. Show your current teacher ID to get free admission to any regularly scheduled public program.

## MAKE A RESERVATION

1. Choose a Program – Visit [Triton.edu/cernan](http://Triton.edu/cernan) for a complete list of available programs, to see trailers for each program and download educator support materials, including curriculum standards, pre- and post-visit activities and more.
2. Choose a Date – Tuesday through Friday. Groups can also make reservations to attend a regularly scheduled public program or book a private program outside of normal hours.
3. Choose a Time Slot – 9:45, 10:45 or 11:45 a.m. Other times available upon request.
4. Review the minimum charge and program cancellation information on the website at [www.Triton.edu/cernan](http://www.Triton.edu/cernan).
5. Call the Cernan Center reservationist – **Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3372**. After setting the date, time and program, let us know if your group wants to eat in the Cernan Center, take a campus tour, shop in the Star Store or order prepackaged souvenir bags.
6. Don't have time to shop or want to make the shopping experience easy for everyone? Order prepackaged souvenir bags for your group by calling **(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3372**.
7. Check your confirmation for accuracy when you receive it by email.

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT

- ♦ Download and print an Exhibit Hunt to complete while your group explores our exhibits. Printed copies and pencils are also available on site.
- ♦ Book your visit during the offseason and get a discount. Weekday visits booked for January or February receive \$0.50 off the regular admission price.  
**NOTE:** The offseason discount will be discontinued effective March 2026.
- ♦ Book two shows for the same day and get a discount. Reserve two shows on the same weekday for the same group of people and receive a \$1 per person discount for the second show on the same day.
- ♦ Plan to shop in the Star Store or order prepackaged souvenir bags. For details and pricing visit [Triton.edu/Cernan](http://Triton.edu/Cernan).

\*Inside background picture – Getty Images.

\*\*Cover picture – Getty Images.

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Cernan Earth and Space Center  
2000 Fifth Ave.  
River Grove, IL 60171

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Triton College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution.



## GROUP PROGRAM GUIDE 2026



**OUT OF THIS WORLD!  
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**



ALL PROGRAMS INCLUDE A LIVE TOUR  
OF THE CURRENT NIGHT SKY, Q&A AND  
OTHER EXCITING COSMIC EXPERIENCES!

SOME PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE IN SPANISH,  
POLISH AND UKRAINIAN. NOTE THAT OUR STAFF  
IS NOT BILINGUAL AT THIS TIME.

MANY PROGRAMS ARE WELL SUITED AND ENJOYABLE  
FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS,  
ADULTS AND AUDIENCES OF MIXED AGES.

FOR MORE PROGRAM OPTIONS  
ON A WIDE VARIETY OF TOPICS,  
VISIT [TRITON.EDU/CERNAN](https://triton.edu/cernan).



**RUSTY ROCKET'S LAST BLAST**  
**Grades 1-4**

Join Rusty Rocket as he leads a class of rookies on their first tour of the Solar System. Along the way, they explore the basics of rocket science, relive great moments in rocket history, and discover all the planets are different and the great distances that separate them.

*Earth and Space Sciences,  
Physical Science*



**OUR PLACE IN SPACE**  
**Grades 1-3**

Discover the cause of day and night, learn about the Sun, Earth, our Solar System and the stars while solving a crossword puzzle about the sky.

*Earth and Space Sciences*

\* Second semester third graders often prefer *Rusty Rocket's Last Blast*.



**THE STELLARS -  
MISSION GREEN**  
**Grades 1 and up**

The action begins when the Stellars crash on Earth. To make matters worse, they need to restore their ship's ecosystem before they run out of food! This Earth science adventure showcases how growing plants, insect pollination, and even fungi and decay keep forests and their habitats healthy.

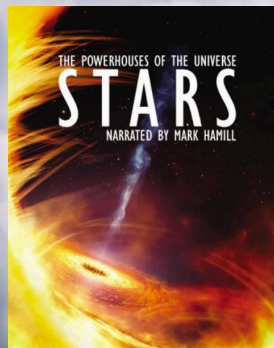
*Earth and Space Sciences*



**ÁRÓRA**  
**Grades 3 and up**

Journey across time and space to understand the science behind the Auroras and experience the stories of our ancestors. Guided by the lullaby of the Dawn Goddess, this cinematic adventure invites the audience to join the dance of these eerie lights over remote Icelandic landscapes.

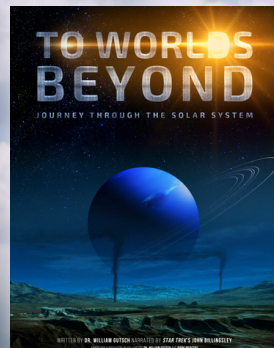
*Earth and Space Sciences*



**STARS - POWERHOUSES  
OF THE UNIVERSE**  
**Grades 4 and Up**

Witness the explosive end of massive stars and the dramatic formation of others. Use the electromagnetic spectrum to see how stars create and release the energy that powers the Universe.

*Earth and Space Sciences*



**TO WORLDS BEYOND**  
**Grades 5 and Up**

From the fiery surface of the Sun to the icy realm of comets, travel to worlds with enormous volcanoes, vast canyons, dazzling rings and storms that would swallow the Earth. Audiences will explore our Solar System through wondrous visits to planets, moons, asteroids and dwarf planets.

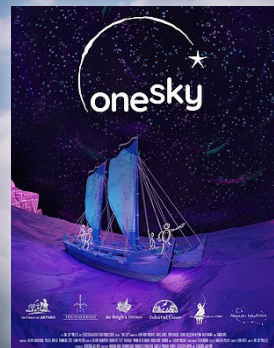
*Earth and Space Sciences*



**SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES**  
**Grades 6 and Up**

Comparing images and data from the Event Horizon Telescope to powerful computer simulations and analysis, scientists are working to understand the physics of how black hole formation relates to galaxy evolution. Observation and theory are being used to shed light on something usually invisible.

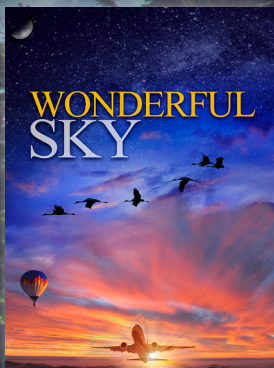
*Earth and Space Sciences*



**ONE SKY: MANY CULTURES**  
**Grades 6 and Up**

Experience the night sky through the eyes of Japanese, Hawaiian, Greek, Navajo and Innu traditions. One Sky: Many Cultures was produced by an international collaboration to increase awareness of cultural and indigenous astronomy, its historical and modern applications, and how One Sky connects us all.

*Earth and Space Sciences, Social Studies*



**WONDERFUL SKY**  
**Grades Pre-K-1**

This live, interactive program allows your youngest students to explore the daytime and nighttime skies in the unique, multi-sensory environment of the Planetarium.

*Earth and Space Sciences*



**ONE WORLD, ONE SKY -  
BIG BIRD'S ADVENTURE**  
**Grades Pre-K-1**

Join Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu, (their new friend from China), as they learn about the Big Dipper, the North Star and the Moon.

*Earth and Space Sciences*



**HABITAT EARTH - LIVING IN  
A CONNECTED WORLD**  
**Grades 3 and Up**

Dive below the ocean's surface, travel beneath the forest floor and journey to new heights to witness the intricate intersection between human and ecological networks.

*Earth and Space Sciences and Life  
Cycles*



**FORWARD! TO THE MOON**  
**Grades 3 and Up**

As we look forward to a future on the Moon, examine how NASA plans to send both humans and robots to the lunar surface and on to Mars. NASA's Artemis Program is the next step in our mission to explore the Universe, and land the first woman and person of color on the surface of the Moon.

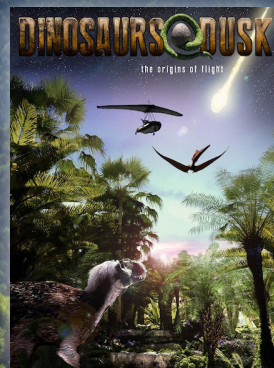
*Earth and Space Sciences*



**DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE**  
**Grades 4 and Up**

From Sputnik to the Space Shuttle and beyond, join the excitement of exploring the final frontier as we prepare for closer international cooperation and the dawn of commercial spaceflight.

*Earth and Space Sciences,  
Physical Science, Social Studies*



**DINOSAURS AT DUSK -  
THE ORIGINS OF FLIGHT**  
**Grades 4 and Up**

Join Lucy and her dad as they fly through the eras of the dinosaurs. Escape a stampede of Argentinosaurus and fly with Quetzalcoatlus in this immersive paleontology experience.

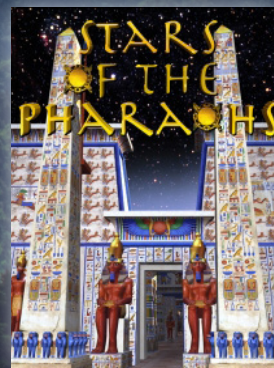
*Earth and Space Sciences,  
Paleontology*



**FROM EARTH TO THE  
UNIVERSE**  
**Grades 6 and Up**

Take a journey of celestial discovery from the theories of ancient Greek astronomers to today's most powerful telescopes, as humanity strives to grasp our place within this vast cosmos.

*Earth and Space Sciences*



**STARS OF THE PHAROHS**  
**Grades 5 and Up**

Discover how ancient Egyptians studied the skies to tell time, create calendars and align gigantic monuments. Explore the connections they felt with the stars and other astronomical phenomena.

*Earth and Space Sciences,  
Social Studies*