



Night Activity Additional Information

Night activities are a fun and exciting way of learning about astronomy. A standard night activity program will include a Cosmodome planetarium session, telescope viewing and laser-guided tour of the night sky. Presentation topics may be curriculum-based or general astronomy topics.

The following information is derived from frequently asked questions about night activities.

- A presenter will arrive at least 90 minutes prior to program commencement to set up telescopes and the planetarium. Pack down time at the conclusion of the evening is approximately 45 minutes after the last session.
- Vehicle access is required to both the planetarium venue and telescope-viewing site. Ideally, the venue and viewing site will be a short distance apart. School staff will most likely require keys or alarm access codes for the evening to enable access through gates, to the venue, toilets and light switches. The telescope-viewing site may be determined upon arrival at the school.
- Venue Requirements: The **Standard Dome** requires at least one power point, a floor space of 6x6 metres and a ceiling height of 3.5 metres (minimum 3 metres). The standard dome has a capacity of 30 primary school participants (25 high school participants) or one class per session. An enclosed hall, gym or multi-purpose room is ideal otherwise a standard classroom, preferably air-conditioned, with desks moved to the edge of the room would suffice. The **Giant Dome** requires two power points, an enclosed hall or theatre with a floor space 9x9 metres and a ceiling height of 4.5 metres (minimum 3.6 metres). The venue must have ground or ramp access. The giant dome has a capacity of 60 primary school participants (50 high school participants) or two classes per session.
- Sessions duration & programs are tailored to suit the year level, number of students and topics covered. Planetarium session usually run for 35-60 minutes. A suggested program will be arranged prior to the visit. With more than one planetarium session, an alternate activity supervised by school staff may be required or a second presenter for conducting the outdoor viewing.
- The outdoor telescope viewing and laser guided tour of the sky is conducted on the school property clear from buildings, trees and bright lights. Typically, the outdoor viewing is held at the end of the program as one group with participants divided into smaller groups according to the number of telescopes. Vehicle access is required.
- What we see will be determined by time, date, view of the sky. Teachers escort students to the outdoor viewing site and await instruction from the presenter. Please ensure students do not approach the telescopes until instructed by the presenter as any movement may require resetting and cause delays in the program. Torches are not permitted near the telescopes and warm clothing including covered footwear should be worn. Please ensure the groundsman **has turned off any sprinklers** that may be on timers.
- In the event of unfavourable weather the outdoor viewing may be cancelled, and the planetarium sessions will proceed. The program may be altered slightly to provide the best possible opportunity to allow the outdoor viewing session to continue should the weather clear. Please advise administration office that the program will continue.
- Parent participation is welcome for the outdoor viewing. Parents are welcome to participate in the planetarium sessions with prior arrangement at the time of booking as this may affect the number of planetarium sessions required, staffing, duration and cost of the program.