

Paper Plate Education

"Serving the Universe on a Paper Plate"

AstroCamp: Astronomy Camp for Kids



Astrocamp is a stargazing adventure where boys and girls experience firsthand the joys of observing the night sky. From the moment they arrive, AstroCampers handle telescope on the shores of Corey Lake and learn constellations in a portable planetarium. They then use their new skills--after making s'mores by the campfire--to identify celestial features and to discover deep sky objects over four consecutive nights.

Observed highlights typically include the planets, the crescent moon, lots of Messier objects (nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies), satellites, and more. Several kids who stay up late measure the local sky glow with Sky Quality Meters (SQMs) in support of the [Night Vision](#) project.

By day, AstroCampers witness solar activity safely both through white light filters and through a hydrogen-alpha telescope. They combine their views of the sun on paper plates, recording emerging sunspots and outlying prominences. Other daytime activities included making and using Star Wheels, making a paper sundial, identifying stars and constellations on a celestial scavenger hunt, using computers with astronomy software, and building and launching water rockets. This is one fun astronomy camp--not school--for kids!

More images of this astronomy camp for kids are at:

[Astrocamp 2011](#) [AstroCamp 2010](#) [AstroCamp 2009](#) [AstroCamp 2008](#) [AstroCamp 2007](#) [AstroCamp 2006](#) [AstroCamp 2005](#) [AstroCamp 2004](#) [AstroCamp 2003](#)

For reservations for the next **AstroCamp**, contact [YMCA Camp Eberhart](#) in Three Rivers, Michigan, at <http://campeb.org>; or at 269-244-5125 or 888-YCAMPEB.

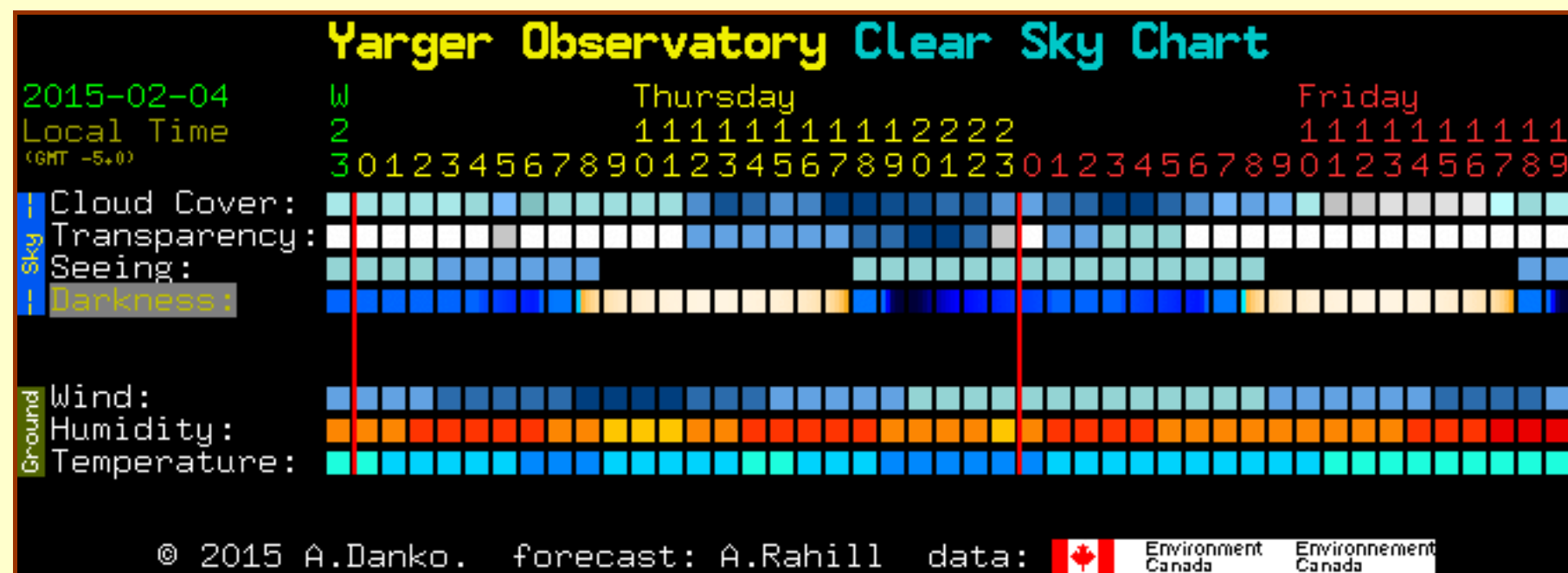
See AstroCamp 2009--"Shoulders of Giants" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-wcKyuIbkY> or click below. Video shows excerpts from some past AstroCamp stargazing and experiences.

AstroCamp is featured on WNIT PBS television show Outdoor Elements ([Episode #1003](#), Segment #1). Note that former AstroCamp attendee and part-time AstroCamp counselor Sarah is the guest of Episode #2. Click picture below or see <http://www.wnit.org/outdoorelements/1000/1003/1003.html>





For observing conditions at the AstroCamp site, visit the Yarger Observatory Clear Sky Clock at <http://cleardarksky.com/c/YrgrObMIkey.html>:



Tables in the [Light Pollution Handbook](#) (p. 71) suggest the Yarger Observatory is an ALCOR 1 facility and an E2 district.

Links related to AstroCamp:

- ✘ <http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20090728/NEWS01/907280366>
"Student stargazers abound at Camp Eberhart; Camp teaches children about astronomy." Story by Tribune Correspondent DL Perrin appears in the July 28, 2009, issue of the South Bend Tribune.
- ✘ http://www.astromart.com/articles/article.asp?article_id=687
Astronomer-in- Residence Darren Drake writes of his stargazing experiences with AstroCamp kids. [added Feb. 2, 2009]
- ✘ <http://www.heavens-above.com/>
Heavens-Above Satellite Predictions
- ✘ www.spaceweather.com
Space Weather
- ✘ <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/activities.htm>
Paper Plate Education Activities
- ✘ <http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070704/News04/707040475&SearchID=73286736469379>
Article in the South Bend Tribune, Wednesday, July 14, 2007: *Seeking the Stars*; by D.L. Perrin.
- ✘ <http://www.campeb.org/summer/AstroCamp/astroarticle.htm>
Article from the Holland Sentinel, Tuesday, July 26, 2005: *Good heavens! Astro Campers actually eager to study stars*; by Peter Burkey.
- ✘ <http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060712/News04/607120543/-1/NEWS04/CAT=News04>
Article in the South Bend Tribune, Wednesday, July 12, 2006: *Camping with the Stars*; by D.L. Perrin.

✘ <http://www.campeb.org/tempfile/astrotemp.htm>

Meet the 2006 AstroCamp Instructors

Note: This AstroCamp webpage is provided as a courtesy by a private party and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of YMCA Camp Eberhart.

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