

Autumn 2025 Stargazing Programs at the

John Glenn Astronomy Park



The John Glenn astronomy Park (JGAP) is open at all times (*with the exception of our program nights, see below*) for people to enjoy views of sky, day or night. Just drive up!

On clear Friday and Saturday nights, from March through the weekend before Thanksgiving, we do “guided stargazing” programs starting at sunset. (*Check times listed below.*) These often involve a laser-guided “tour” of the constellations and features of the sky. Volunteers bring, or “adopt” telescopes for the evening and share views in our telescope. Visitors to our programs can get in line for a view through our enormous “Wow!” telescope in our observatory when conditions are favorable. On many nights astro-imagers on site will share live views of celestial objects on their computer screens.

Please note: Because our parking space is limited, **we require visitors to our Friday and Saturday night programs to secure a free parking pass for the early evening hours.** Please respect this requirement to ensure that we do not run out parking space for those who have pre-planned a trip to JGAP. *Space is infinite, our parking area is not.*

Get one at: registration.jgap.org

Additional parking passes are frequently posted a few days before each event. Watch for them at the bottom of the list.

Visitors to the Hocking Hills Lodge and the Hocking Hills State Park Cabins (immediately alongside JGAP) are welcome to walk over without a pass.

If you have your own telescope, binoculars, or just two eyes that love to gaze upon the stars, you are free to drive into JGAP on a *non-program* night without a parking pass. Clear, moonless nights show off the dark skies of the Hocking Hills the best.

Here's what to expect at our programs this Autumn:

September 26-27: Two celestial birds. The constellations Cygnus (The Swan) and Aquilla (The Eagle) fly along the Milky Way and are filled with celestial gems visible through the telescope. Also, the crescent moon is low in the southwest and Saturn is visible. 7:15 PM

October 3-4: Scientists and Philosophers on the Moon. Most of the craters on the moon are named for natural philosophers and scientists. Come learn about a few of them and then look at the craters that bear their names. Saturn can be seen nearby. 7:00 PM

October 10-11: The Great Andromeda Galaxy. The most distant object able to be seen with the naked eye is M31, the Andromeda Galaxy. Through a telescope, it appears as a wispy, lens-shaped, blur. Saturn is at its best now. 7:00 PM

October 17-18: The Fall Milky Way. The Milky Way is again at its best this week. It stretches all the way from the teapot shape of Sagittarius to Perseus. Come explore some of its gems. 6:45 PM

October 24-25: Earthshine. We'll be starting a little early these two evenings to catch the lovely glow of Earthshine, the reflection of light off of the earth onto the surface of the moon. After that, we'll turn our scopes to some of the objects along the lovely fall Milky Way. Saturn looks great, too. 6:30 PM.

October 31-November 1: Spooky Skies. Dragons, scorpions, skulls, murder and mayhem. Come hear about some of the spooky stuff different cultures have memorialized in nebulae shapes and star patterns of the heavens. Then we'll be looking at the bright moon and Saturn. 6:30 PM

November 7-8: Pale Blue Dot. We will be gazing at Saturn and imaging what our world would look like from its vantage point, and beyond. The bright moon rises keeping us from having fully dark skies. 5:30 PM

November 14-15: Fall Galaxies. With the Milky way rolling over to the west, our view of the cosmos looks into the vast intergalactic space beyond. We'll be taking a look at some of the galaxies there. 5:30 PM

November 21-22: Greek Drama in the Fall Skies. Rising high in the northeast are a collection of constellations that tell the story of the vain queen Cassiopeia, her daughter Andromeda, Perseus, a flying horse and a sea monster. Also, Saturn's rings are almost invisible this week. This is the last weekend of programs in 2025. 5:30 PM.

The Triangulum Galaxy(M33) is one of the highlights of the fall sky on clear, dark nights. It is the third largest member of our Local Group of Galaxies.

When conditions are favorable, this distant "island universe" can be seen as with binoculars a diffuse round glow. It is in the constellation Triangulum.



Because our programs are about the stars, they are dependent on weather. They will be called off on rainy or cloudy evenings. Please check the hour-by-hour weather forecast before setting out.

We post notice of whether or not an evening's program will go forward on our website, JGAP.org, and our Facebook Page "John Glenn Astronomy Park", by noon on the same day as the program.

I also recommend, for a last minute weather forecast, checking:

Weather.gov

Put "Logan, OH" into the search bar.

As astronomers say, *Clear Skies!*



The John Glenn Astronomy Park is brought to you by the Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park a non-profit (501c3) membership organization for people who love the Hocking Hills and take special interest in improving Park features and preserving it for the enjoyment of future generations.

If you'd like support the mission of The Friends go to

<http://www.friendsofhockinghills.org/>

or scan the QR code at right.

