



**Mount Diablo State Park,  
Mount Diablo Astronomical Society (MDAS),  
and the Mount Diablo Observatory Association present  
2012 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo**

DATE 2012	Program Starts	SPECIAL EVENT AND TOPIC
Mar 24	7:00 PM	<b>EXPLORE OUR GALAXY:</b> Build a model of our Galaxy! Solar System, Galaxy, Universe: what's the difference? How big is our Galaxy compared to our Solar System? Take home a model of our galaxy.
Apr 14	7:00 PM	<b>NEIGHBOR PLANETS:</b> See our Solar System neighbors: Venus and Mars through telescopes tonight and find out why Earth has abundant life, but not Mars and Venus.
May 19	7:30 PM	<b>SEE THE RINGS OF SATURN:</b> Here's your chance to see Saturn through a telescope. Make a Pocket Solar System and then explore the rest of the universe as you tour the telescopes.
Jun 5	3:00 PM	<b>SPECIAL VIEWING OF THE VENUS TRANSIT: Last chance in your lifetime to see it! Meet us at the Juniper Campground 3 pm to Sunset</b>
Jun 23	7:30 PM	<b>ARE WE ALONE?</b> What will the first alien life we discover likely look like? How will we find it? Where are we looking? Are they looking back at us? Take home a star map of other stars that have planets.
Jul 21	7:30 PM	<b>EXPLORE OUR MAGNETIC SUN:</b> Arrive at 7:30 to safely view the Sun through telescopes. Why does the sun have spots? How can it affect cell phones and create auroras? After sunset, we'll watch all the other stars appear!
Aug 11	7:00 PM	<b>ROCKS FROM SPACE:</b> The Earth is hit all the time with small space rocks. Hold real meteorites in your hand. Why does the Moon have so many craters and Earth so few? Watch for meteors from the Perseid meteor shower.
Sep 22	6:30 PM	<b>STARS OF THE TRIANGLE:</b> As summertime ends, don't miss this chance to explore the Summer Triangle! Take home a star map of what you discover. Last chance to view Mars this year.
Oct 20	5:30 PM	<b>GO INSIDE A TELESCOPE:</b> How do telescopes work? Take an inside look and learn about 400-year-old technology still in use today!

**Program:** Participate in hands-on astronomy activities, followed by supervised observing through the many different telescopes of MDAS members to view the Moon, planets, stars, galaxies and more.

**Time:** Evening, beginning about an hour before sunset and lasting up to several hours. Plan to enter the park gate at least 45 minutes before the program starts.

**Where:** Lower Summit parking lot of Mt. Diablo State Park (except as noted)

**Cost:** The astronomy program is free; there is a park entry fee.

**Bring:** Kids, binoculars, warm clothes (temperature can drop significantly), snacks, water. If you bring a flashlight, please cover it with red cellophane, red cloth, or a red balloon.

**Leaving:** The Park gates will be locked and visitors will only be able to leave the summit and exit the park by escorted caravans through the North Gate several times during the evening. Caravans will be announced at various intervals following the program discussion and visitors should only leave with these escorts.

**NOTE:** Astronomy Program is weather permitting (including "High Fire Danger"). Go to: <http://www.mdas.net> and click on **Event Calendar** or call Mt. Diablo State Park – 925-837-2525.



**Mount Diablo Astronomical Society:** [www.mdas.net](http://www.mdas.net)  
A proud member of the NASA Night Sky Network: <http://nightskynetwork.net>  
Email: [outreachinfo@mdas.net](mailto:outreachinfo@mdas.net)