

2024-2025

U-46 Planetarium Scout Programs

The Elgin U-46 Planetarium offers presentations from Brownies and Wolf Cubs on up to earn their respective badges, electives, belt loops and awards in astronomy. The Planetarium does not sell badges; we create experiences that allow a scout to learn about astronomy that may lead to a badge/award.

Scout Session I Program time: 1.5 hours, 6:00-7:30pm

For Scouts in grade 3 and younger including Brownies and Wolf/Bear Cubs

This program introduces the history of the building on Watch St, the Elgin National Watch Company Observatory (1909) and attached planetarium (1963). Scouts will learn how to use a star clock to find a few constellations in the northern night sky and also get a viewing of the entire night sky (sunset to sunrise) for the season. Please bring a cut-out star clock that you made at home or a meeting ([available here](#) & below) to use in the program. It requires scissors and a brad fastener. [Here are instructions](#) if needed.

This program may feature a full dome show (video projected on the entire dome) titled either, *"Magic Tree House, Space Mission"* that is based on the chapter book series of the same name or *"Earth, Moon and Sun"*. You can find more information on either show searching online for moreheadplanetarium.org.

Scout Session II Program time: 1.5 hours, 6:00-7:30pm

For grades 4 and up, starting at Girl Scout Juniors and Boy Scout Webelos

Girl and Boy Scouts are welcome at this program that details the history of the Elgin National Watch Company Observatory and how time telling was done here (1909), and the attached planetarium (1963). A tour of the observatory dome and transit telescope is included. Scouts also learn how to read a full star map to find constellations in all directions of the night sky and practice it under the dome. Please bring a cut-out star clock that you made at home or a meeting. This is the last page of this PDF. It is also [available here](#). Here are [instructions](#) if needed. You'll need a pair of scissors and a brad fastener. We will use these in the program and then build to other constellations with full star maps I have here as loaners. If you have your own planisphere or star map, please bring it.

We will focus on the constellations and planets visible in the sky in the current season along with their nightly and seasonal movement patterns.

The full dome planetarium show, *Two Small Pieces of Glass* or *Galileo: Power of the Telescope* may be presented if time allows. Both cover the history of the telescope and how it works along with exploring the famous astronomers and discoveries over the years.

Astronomy Merit Badge workshops are not available for the 2024-25 school year. Any Scout may attend the Scout Sessions above to fulfill parts of the Astronomy Merit Badge requirements. The planetarium teacher is not a certified merit badge counselor and cannot sign off on any requirements

Admission:

- Free for 24-25 school year.
- This program is only for scouts and adult chaperones. One adult for every 3-8 scouts is appropriate. Please do not bring siblings or other family members as this is not a public event. If you would like to bring family and friends, please attend one of our public show nights which can be found on our website.

Reservations:

- To reserve a spot at a scout night, please confirm with your troop how many people will be attending.
- Then, [fill out this form to register](#). Please do not fill out the form until you are committed to attending and have an accurate count of attendees.
- Please have one adult contact for the troop or pack register online. Seating is limited and the program is popular. One adult per 3-8 scouts is appropriate. No siblings/strollers please.

Dates for 2024-25

Boy and Girl Scouts	Fall	Spring	times
Scout Session I (grades 2-3)		Mon. 4/7/25	6:00-7:30pm
Scout Session II (grades 4 and up)		Mon. 4/14/25	6:00-7:30pm

*Due to the popularity of the scout programs, please limit your attendees to scouts and an appropriate number of leaders, no siblings. You may call the day before to see if there are available seats for siblings or extra adults.

Please check [the U-46 Observatory/Planetarium](#) section of the website for public family nights. Children age 5 and under are not recommended at most planetarium sessions.

Site info:

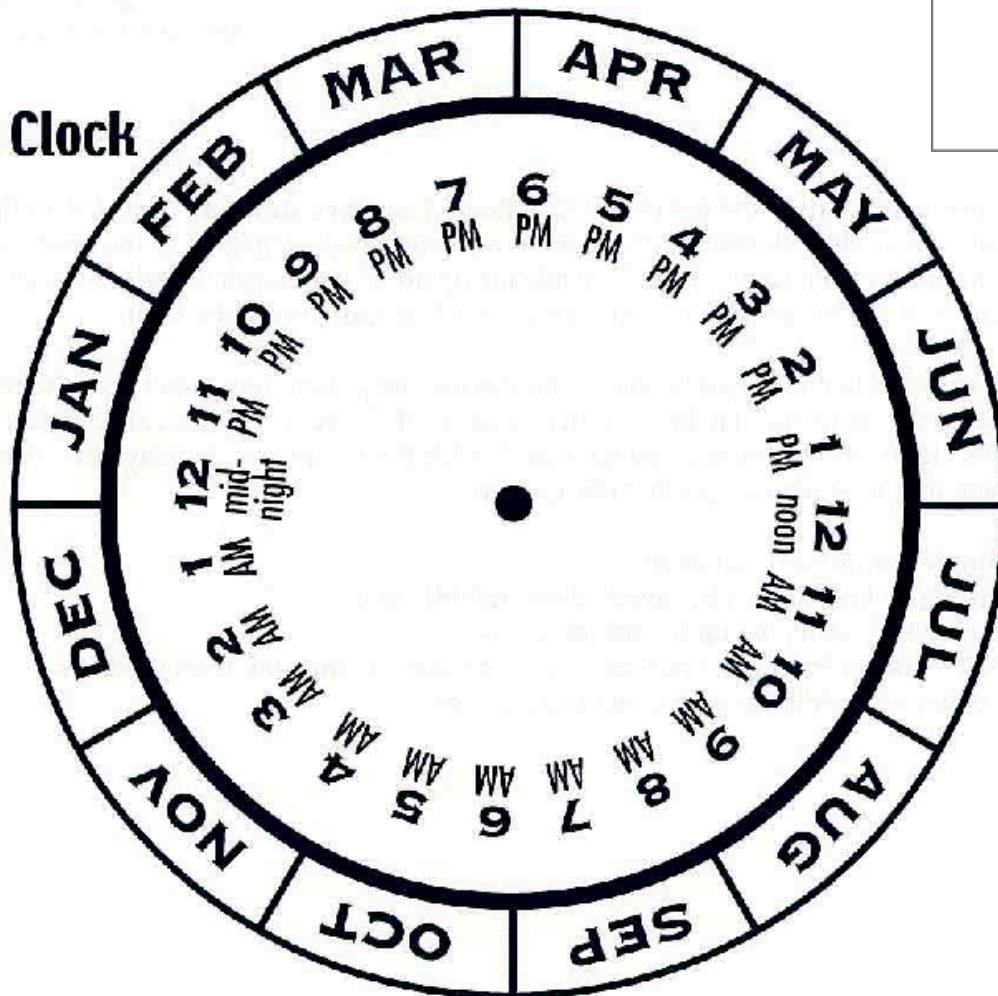
Planetarium physical address: 312 Watch St. Elgin, IL 60120 (This is NOT the mailing address)

Mailing address: Joe Kellenberger, ESC Science/Planetarium Office 4th floor
355 E. Chicago St. Elgin, IL 60120

Parking: **Free** at National St. and Raymond St. **No parking on Watch St. or Aperia private lot**

Star Clock

You will need scissors and a brad fastener to make your star clock.



Astro Adventures,
Star Finding,
Lesson 4: Star Finding

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