



# The Herbert F. Trackman Planetarium 2019-2020 Program

## Show & Group Information

All public planetarium shows last about an hour. They start with a trip through the current skies using the OmniStar digital projector and conclude with a Q&A session.

All shows are free and suitable for all ages. Seating is first come, first served. Grade school and high school groups are encouraged to attend special programs presented during the school day. These programs are often combined with a visit to the 150-year-old Cronin Schoolhouse, which is also located on JJC's Main Campus.

Social and civic organizations are also invited to schedule programs. These programs are available during the day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and on select Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Reservations are required.

## Making Reservations for Special Shows

To make reservations for your school group or organization, contact Field Trip Coordinator at (815) 280-2525 or [smemishi@jjc.edu](mailto:smemishi@jjc.edu).

## Astronomy Courses

Joliet Junior College offers the following college-level astronomy courses. These are designed for non-science majors. No prior science courses are required to enroll.

### **Descriptive Astronomy (ASTR 101) –**

Learn about the concepts, principles and methods that lead to our present understanding of the solar system, stars, galaxies and the universe. It includes a historical perspective of how our understanding of the universe has progressed over the years. This course is offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

### **Life in the Universe (PHSCI 125) –**

This course addresses the possibility of finding life beyond Earth, how we search for life outside of Earth and the feasibility of humans traveling in and colonizing space. Professor Noella Dcruz teaches this course in the fall and spring semesters.

*For more information about  
our classes, call (815) 280-6682 or visit  
[jjc.edu/academics/natural-sciences](http://jjc.edu/academics/natural-sciences).*

## Contact Information

**Joliet Junior College**  
**1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431**  
**[jjc.edu](http://jjc.edu) • (815) 729-9020**

For more information about  
the Trackman planetarium, contact:

**Art Maurer, Director**  
**[amaurer@jjc.edu](mailto:amaurer@jjc.edu) • (815) 280-2601**

## The JJC Foundation

Much of the funding to operate the Herbert Trackman Planetarium comes from generous contributions from the JJC Foundation. The JJC Foundation is the not-for-profit arm of JJC that collects funds to be used for scholarships and major projects not included in the college's budget. These contributions come from our alumni, individuals, organizations and corporations. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer shows to the community and to the thousands of children who visit us on school trips each year.

If you are interested in contributing to these extra projects at JJC, please contact Institutional Advancement at (815) 280-2353.





## About The Planetarium

Visitors can discover the wonders of space and travel through the universe at JJC's Herbert Trackman Planetarium. The planetarium opened in 1973 thanks to the enthusiasm of former JJC President Doug Graham. Since then, the planetarium has received two generous donations: one from alumnus Herbert F. Trackman in 1988, and another in 2014, when the JJC Foundation provided funds to install a new OmniStar digital projection system. This system displays an accurate arrangement of the stars and planets on the planetarium's dome and has given viewers the opportunity to see professionally produced shows. All shows are continuously updated to reflect the latest information from NASA. Nearly 10,000 people visit each year to enjoy these educational shows offered for free thanks to the generosity of the JJC Foundation.

### Tuesday Shows (7:30 p.m.)

9/17/19 From Earth to the Universe  
 10/1/19 The Sun, Our Living Star  
 10/15/19 Galileo  
 10/29/19 Mars\*\*  
 11/12/19 The Solar System\*\*  
 11/26/19 Two Small Pieces of Glass  
 12/10/19 The Story of the Christmas Star\*\*  
 1/7/20 Out There  
 1/21/20 Sunstruck  
 2/4/20 Black Holes\*\*  
 2/18/20 Asteroids and Comets\*\*  
 3/3/20 Humans and Robots in Space\*\*  
 3/17/20 The Sun, Our Living Star  
 3/31/20 Phantom of the Universe  
 4/14/20 From Earth to the Universe  
 4/28/20 Galileo  
 5/12/20 Sunstruck  
 5/26/20 Humans and Robots in Space\*\*  
 6/9/20 Sunstruck

### Thursday Shows (6:30 p.m.)

9/26/19 Trip Through Space\*  
 10/10/19 Larry Cat in Space\*  
 10/24/19 The Little Star That Could\*  
 11/7/19 We Go to the Moon\* \*\*  
 11/21/19 Sunstruck  
 12/5/19 The Story of the Christmas Star\*\*  
 1/2/20 Two Small Pieces of Glass  
 1/16/20 Larry Cat in Space\*  
 2/13/20 The Little Star That Could\*  
 2/27/20 The Solar System  
 3/12/20 We Go to the Moon\* \*\*  
 3/26/20 Larry Cat in Space\*  
 4/9/20 The Little Star That Could\*  
 4/23/20 Trip Through Space  
 5/7/20 Sunstruck  
 5/21/20 The Sun, Our Living Star  
 6/4/20 Larry Cat in Space\*  
 6/18/20 The Little Star That Could\*

**NOTE:** Visitors should arrive early. Seating is limited and once the chamber is dark, it is difficult to move around. Doors are closed once the chamber is filled.

\*Show is meant for younger audiences (first grade and younger).  
\*\*PowerPoint show

### Sunday Holiday Show (2 p.m.)

12/15/19 The Story of the Christmas Star\*\*

## Show Descriptions

All shows start with a tour of the current sky for the next 24 hours.

**Asteroids and Comets:** Learn about the giant rocks that share our solar system with the planets. This show includes a history of terrestrial hits that have occurred since the beginning of the solar system, plus chances of collisions in the future.\*\*

**Black Holes:** What are they and where do they come from? What is gravity? And what happens if you fall into a Black hole? \*\*

**From Earth to the Universe:** This show starts with the beginnings of astronomy and continues with exploration of the solar system and universe.

**Galileo:** Follow the story of Galileo, his science experiments and the telescope.

**Humans and Robots in Space:** Learn about the use of robots versus humans in space exploration.\*\*

**Larry Cat in Space:** This is a story about a cat who sneaks aboard a rocket for a trip to the moon.\*

**The Little Star that Could:** This animated story is about a new star that goes in search of its identity and finds a planet of its own. Show includes descriptions of the different types of stars and the planets.\*

**Mars:** Mars is a future destination for manned space trips. Learn about the red planet and what is needed to survive a trip to this terrestrial land.\*\*

**Out There:** This show is about the search for exoplanets: planets that are orbiting stars other than our sun. We have found almost 4,000 of these worlds beyond our solar system. With all of the billions of stars in the universe, we are hoping to find some exoplanets that could have intelligent life.

**Phantom of the Universe:** Ordinary matter makes up less than 5 percent of the mass of the universe. The rest of the universe appears to be made of a mysterious, invisible substance called dark matter (25 percent) and a force that repels gravity known as dark energy (70 percent). This show explains how science is searching for the source of dark energy and dark matter.

**The Solar System:** This show is about the sun, planets, plutoids, dwarf planets and other objects that orbit the sun. The show is continually updated to remain current and concludes with a look at the possibility of aliens.\*\*

**The Story of the Christmas Star:** Learn about the history of the winter solstice celebration and why Christmas is celebrated at this time of the year. This show also addresses what the Christmas star might have been, what year the birth described in the Bible might have happened and the story of the three kings. Biblical, historical and astronomical data is used to prepare this show.\*\*

**Sunstruck:** How does the sun generate radiation? How can this radiation be a threat to Earth? How hot is the sun and how long until it dies? Get all these questions about the sun answered in this program.

**The Sun, Our Living Star:** This new show explores the relationship between Earth and the sun.

**Trip Through Space:** This show is a trip through the solar system and the universe for younger audiences.\*

**Two Small Pieces of Glass:** Learn how telescopes work and how they are used. The show also gives tips on how to choose a telescope and what not to buy.

**We Go to the Moon:** Ever wonder what it would be like to go to the moon? Find out in this show! Young students will also get a chance to discuss what they would need for their lunar voyage.\* \*\*