



PRESS RELEASE
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S.B. Museum of Natural History to Host Celebration of Astronomy

- Museum to host special day of astronomy-themed activities
- Sunday, May 4 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at SBMNH
- Plus UCSB Physics Circus, S.B. Astronomical Unit, Central Coast Girl Scout Astronomy Club
- Included with admission, Members are always free.

SANTA BARBARA, CA— On Sunday, May 4 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will host Astro Fest, a day of special activities to celebrate astronomy, included with general admission (Members are free). The Museum is offering space-themed fun for all ages, with support from partners UCSB Physics Circus, the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit (SBAU), and the Central Coast's Girl Scout Astronomy Club.

In addition to the normal schedule of shows in Gladwin Planetarium, the Museum is expanding the hours of Palmer Observatory to the duration of the event. Visitors at the observatory will be able to safely view the Sun through solar telescopes (weather permitting) and enjoy cosmic discussions with SBAU volunteers and Museum staff. Fleischmann Auditorium will be full of astronomy and physics-themed craft and demonstration opportunities for the young and young-at-heart.

"We are excited to bring the cosmos a little closer with Astro Fest—an event full of celestial fun, hands-on exploration, and skyward inspiration," says SBMNH Astronomy Programs Manager Ila Jade Komasa. "This event strives to connect guests to the awe-inspiring scale of the universe, the curiosity that drives scientific discovery, and the joy of asking big questions. From young future astronauts to seasoned stargazers, there will be something for everyone at Astro Fest!"

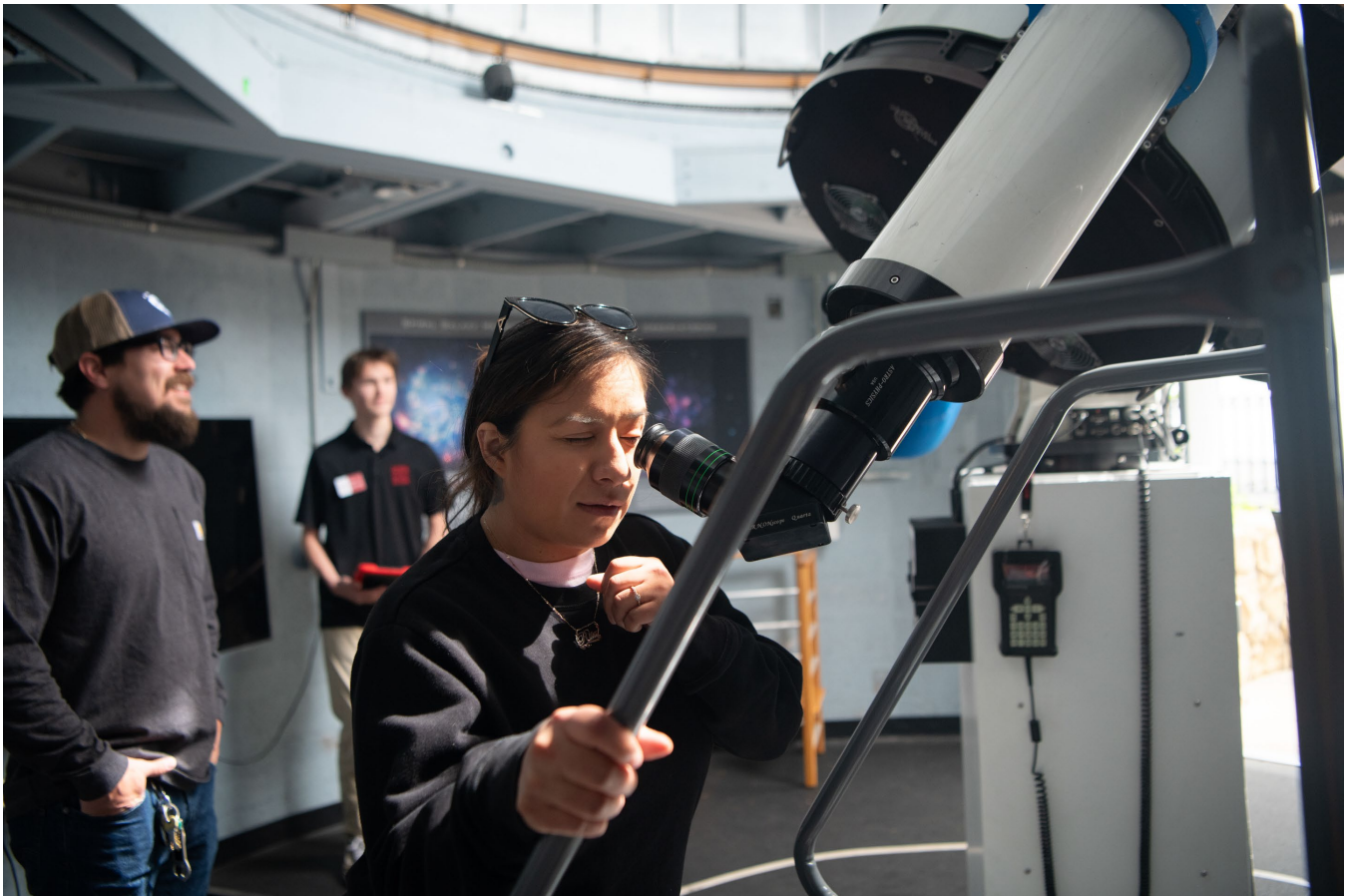
Those hoping to attend a planetarium show are encouraged to line up in front of the planetarium 10 minutes in advance of each show. First come, first served. No late entry is granted.

The Museum looks forward to expanding its capacity to interpret astronomy even further this summer, with the public reopening of its entirely updated Space Sciences exhibits on July 12. Museum Members will have the opportunity to preview the exhibit during the Members' Party July 11. Visit sbnature.org/astronomy for more information.

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About the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Powered by Science. Inspired by Nature. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History connects people to nature for the betterment of both, drawing on collections that preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Central Coast and beyond. Founded in 1916, the Museum is a private nonprofit supported in part by philanthropy, membership, and visitors. Members visit free. For more information, visit sbnature.org.



Solar telescopes in the Museum's Palmer Observatory enable safe solar viewing, weather permitting. Photo by SBMNH



Constellation-making will be one of many activities in Fleischmann Auditorium.
Photo by SBMNH



Astronomy Programs Manager Ila Jade Komasa in Gladwin Planetarium
Photo by SBMNH