



Ashton Observatory Public Nights 2026

Presented by The Des Moines Astronomical Society, Inc.

Ashton Observatory is open to the public for weekend programs,
followed by stargazing – Saturday evenings, April through October.



Date	Time	Presentation Subject	Presenter	days	Moon
Apr. 04	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		17.1	☾
11	8:00 p.m.	Preview of the coming 2026 season.....	Derryl Barr, Greg Woolever	24.0	☾
18	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		1.6	☾
25	8:00 p.m.	Astrophotography with a DSLR/Mirrorless Camera	Heather Johnson	8.6	☾
May 02	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		15.6	☾
09	8:00 p.m.	Types of Objects in the Universe.....	Paul Caligiuri	22.6	☾
16	8:00 p.m.	Ashton Observatory closed: NCRA conference in Cedar Rapids....		0.3	☾
23	8:00 p.m.	Stars & S'mores: The Perfect Camping Combination.	Jim McGraw	7.3	☾
30	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		14.3	☾
Jun. 06	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		21.3	☾
13	8:00 p.m.	Starry, Starry Night.....	JoAnn Cogil	28.3	☾
20	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		6.0	☾
27	8:00 p.m.	Inspiring Astronomer: Hebert Howe	Jim VandeBerg	13.0	☾
Jul. 04	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		20.0	☾
11	8:00 p.m.	Finding Distances to Stars and Objects.....	Paul Caligiuri	27.0	☾
18	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		4.7	☾
25	8:00 p.m.	Protecting our Dark Skies	JR Paulson	11.7	☾
Aug. 01	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		18.7	☾
08	8:00 p.m.	Our Address in the Universe.....	JR Paulson	25.7	☾
15	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		3.4	☾
22	8:00 p.m.	Astronomy Fun Facts.....	Jim VandeBerg	10.4	☾
29	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		17.4	☾
Sep. 05	8:00 p.m.	Chasing Comets, Past & Present	Jon Voisey	24.4	☾
12	8:00 p.m.	Journey to the Edge of the Universe	Jim VandeBerg	1.9	☾
19	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		8.9	☾
26	8:00 p.m.	History of Apollo, Part 2	Wade Johnson	15.9	☾
Oct. 03	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		22.9	☾
10	8:00 p.m.	Hidden in Plain Sight: Looking at Saturn Edge-On.....	Derrick Bennett	0.4	☾
17	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		7.4	☾
24	8:00 p.m.	To be determined.....	?	14.4	☾
31	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		21.4	☾

Donations are tax-deductible to the Des Moines Astronomical Society, a 501(c)(3) corporation.
Ashton Observatory is located in Ashton Wildwood County Park, Jasper County, IA,
8837 W. 122nd Street, Mingo, IA 50168. Location coordinates: 41.813371; -93.288447
website: www.dmastronomy.com
email: info@dmastronomy.com
DMAS founded 1970. Ashton Observatory built 1983. Classroom added 2002.
Classroom programs are created by individual presenters, and do not necessarily reflect the
views of DMAS or its members.

