

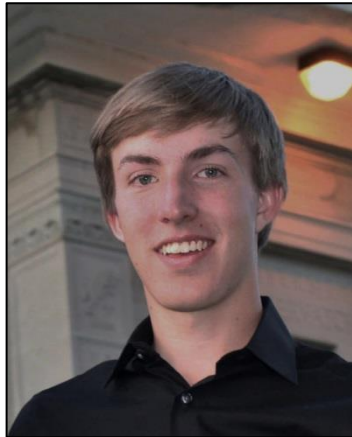
Ashton Observatory Public Nights

The Des Moines Astronomical Society invites you to visit the Ashton Observatory Saturdays, 8:00 p.m., April through October.

Most Saturdays include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our presenters this season:

Ryan Thompson



Ryan Thompson has been interested in science and nature for as long as he can remember, but he can trace his passion for astronomy back to a camping trip in 2013 during which he viewed Jupiter through a telescope for the first time. Since then, he has enjoyed observing through telescopes, experimenting with astrophotography, and learning about the math and physics behind astronomical processes.

Ryan grew up in West Des Moines, IA, and graduated from Valley High School in 2015. He is currently a student in aerospace engineering and physics with a minor in astronomy at Iowa State University. Although he enjoys all areas in astronomy, his favorite topics include stellar evolution, cosmology, and orbital mechanics. Ryan's interest in astrophotography started when he wanted to record what he was seeing through his telescope so that he could show others. Currently, he primarily photographs galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters.

Ryan frequently brings his telescope for visitors to use at DMAS Public Nights as well as at star parties hosted by the Science Center of Iowa. In his free time, he enjoys rollerblading and ice skating, programming, and doing math. One of his favorite memories is of several nights in a row spent under very dark skies in northern Minnesota, counting passing satellites and meteors with the Milky Way arcing overhead.