

Triton's Cernan Center's Touch the Sky Grant Still Available for School and Group Leaders



There are only a few months left for school teachers and group leaders to take advantage of the Cernan Earth and Space Center of Triton College's "Touch the Sky" grant, which provides a free planetarium show and a \$40 Star Store gift shop credit to qualifying groups.

This two-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will end on July 31, 2011. The major component of this federal grant allows schools, senior citizen groups and other nonprofit organizations the opportunity to attend any one of the Cernan Center's educational programs free of charge on weekday afternoons from 12:10 to 4 p.m.

Participating group leaders may select any of the Cernan Center's currently available educational programs and can choose between the Cernan Center's 12:10, 1:20, 2:30 or 4 p.m. weekday time slots for their program.

The show selection includes eight children's planetarium shows, 13 multimedia Earth and sky shows, and six C-360 wraparound films. Laser light shows, which have no educational content, will not be supported by the grant. Time slots would be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Preferential treatment will be given to larger groups (i.e., 50 to 100 students) so as to maximize the educational "reach" of this initiative.

In addition to the free planetarium show, visiting groups also will be given the opportunity to purchase \$40 worth of educational books and teaching materials to supplement their classroom instruction during their visit to the Cernan Center, thereby extending the educational benefit of this program.

The Cernan Earth and Space Center's Star Store gift shop offers a wide variety of educational books and teaching materials related to the themes of astronomy, space exploration and the study of our own planet Earth, including astronomy or Earth-science books, magazines, posters, videotapes, educational DVDs, etc.

Since the intent of this offer is to provide materials for classroom instruction, these funds should be limited to the purchase of merchandise that has direct educational and teaching value.

Groups interested in participating in the "Touch the Sky" Program should submit a letter on their organization's stationery stating their interest in reserving a free program at the Cernan Earth and Space Center, as well as the fact that their organization lacks the necessary funds to support the admission fees to the Cernan Center, which are normally \$4.50 per student per show.

All letters should be faxed to (708) 583-3153 or mailed to Bart Benjamin, Cernan Earth and Space Center, Triton College, 2000 Fifth Ave., River Grove, Ill. 60171.

You will then be contacted by the Cernan Center to make specific field trip arrangements (i.e., date, time, and choice of program).

Transportation to and from the Cernan Center remains the responsibility of each visiting group or organization. The IMLS grant does not cover transportation costs.

For additional information, regarding the "Touch the Sky" program, the Cernan Center, its programs, field trips or events, please call (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3372, or visit the Cernan Center's Web site at www.triton.edu/cernan.