

Dear Camper;

We are excited that the UNL Summer Astronomy Camp is less than a month away. You are one of 15 students who have enrolled in the camp. A roster is enclosed which lists all of the students. This letter will detail many important pieces of information concerning the camp.

The camp will begin at 6:00 pm on Sunday, July 13. All students will be staying in Neihardt dormitory and must check in between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm. A campus map is enclosed which shows the location of the Cather/Pound/Neihardt complex. The Neihardt dormitory faces 16th Street. There is metered parallel parking available on 16th street that is your best bet while checking in. An organizational meeting for campers will occur at 8:00 pm in room 202 of Brace Hall (about 4 blocks west of the dormitory). All policies of the astronomy camp and the dormitory will be discussed at that time. Parents are welcome to attend this meeting.

At check-in you will be assigned a room and given your key. Female and male students will be assigned to different floors. Students will typically be assigned to a double occupancy room, unless there is an odd number of either female or male campers. This assignment will be made on a purely random basis. Each room contains its own sink and mirror. Shower and toilet facilities are available in a common bathroom for the entire floor.

You will also be given a meal card at check in. This card will allow you to gain access to the Selleck Cafeteria for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Monday through Friday of the camp. Breakfast is served from 7:00 am to 9:45 am, lunch from 10:45 am to 1:30 pm, and dinner from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm. There will be a wide variety of foods from which to choose. Both vegan and vegetarian entrees are available at every meal.

Your meal card will also gain you access to the Campus Recreational Center. There are basketball courts, racquetball courts, a weight and nautilus room, pool, and many other recreational options available. The Campus Recreational Center is open from 6:15 am until 10:00 pm Monday through Friday. Individual schedules for each activity are posted at the Campus Recreational Center.

A typical day of astronomy camp will involve some combination of class and laboratory from 10:00 am until noon and from 1:00 pm until approximately 3:30 pm. A planetarium show and museum tour will be included in those time periods. Daytime activities will all focus on understanding astrobiology concepts. Evening activities will begin at 7:00 pm and will focus on building an understanding of working with astronomical instruments and applying them to issues associated with astrobiology. Hopefully, we will have lots of clear weather and observing will last from dusk until around 1 am. We plan on dividing campers into 3 groups. Two groups will travel to

Mead, NE to utilize the 30-inch reflector and Behlen Observatory and 4 smaller telescopes and the third group will stay in town to use the 16-inch telescope of the student observatory. If the weather is cloudy, evening activities will last until about 9:30 pm. If the weather is clear, students will be kept extremely busy at astronomy camp. If it is cloudy, they will only be kept very busy. An exact schedule will be placed on the web site and distributed at the orientation meeting.

There are many things that you should bring with you to astronomy camp. Our dormitory linen package includes sheets, pillow, and pillowcase. You are required to bring your own blanket, towel, and toiletries. Dress will be casual for the camp. You may choose to bring clothing for the entire week or make use of coin operated washers and dryers in the dormitories. You should definitely bring warm clothing for nighttime observing. Tennis shoes, gym clothes, swimsuit, and possibly a padlock for a locker will be needed if you wish to use the Rec Center. Other suggestions: a flashlight, an alarm clock, sunscreen, phone calling card, umbrella, scientific calculator, and modest spending money. All school supplies will be provided.

To ensure the safety and well being of everyone involved in the camp, there are many university rules and regulations by which all students must abide. The *UNL Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures* pamphlet is over 15 pages long. It can be summarized succinctly as treat yourself, others, and university property with respect. However, there are several regulations in effect for the Astronomy Camp which need to be explicitly stated since a violation of one of these regulations may result in dismissal from the camp.

- 1) All participants at the UNL astronomy camp are required to remain on the UNL city campus the entire time of the camp (except for trips to Behlen Observatory). If you drive your own car to the camp you must notify us of this so we may obtain a parking permit for you and you will be asked to turn in your keys for the duration of the camp.
- 2) All participants are required to attend all scheduled events for the camp. A detailed schedule will be passed out at the camp orientation meeting.
- 3) The following are prohibited on the UNL campus:
 - alcohol
 - illegal drugs
 - firearms or weapons of any kind
 - fireworks
 - gambling
 - destruction of university property
 - tampering with fire equipment or arson
 - abuse (physics or verbal) and/or battery of any person
 - throwing or dropping objects out of windows
 - possession of stolen property
 - tampering with the mail or mail boxes

There are additional regulations specific to Summer Conferences and Neihardt Dormitory. These are summarized on the enclosed yellow sheet and will be discussed in depth at the orientation meeting.

Two program assistants have been hired to stay with the students in the dormitory. In addition, a UNL Summer Conferences staff member is on call making rounds throughout the dormitory from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.

The UNL Summer Conferences Staff, the Department of Physics and Astronomy staff, and our program assistants will make the safety and security their highest priority. However, in case of accident it is necessary for each camper to fill out and return the Consent for Medical Treatment Form. This form should be completed as soon as possible and mailed to :

Astronomy Summer Camp
c/o Marilyn McDowell
314 Ferguson Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68588-0109

No student will be allowed to begin the camp until this form has been completed. Copies of this form will be kept with the campers at all times. Supplemental Insurance has also been purchased for each camper. This medical plan provides up to \$5000 of accident medical coverage.

Administrative staff in the Department of Physics and Astronomy can be contacted at 402-472-2770 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Messages may also be left at the Neihardt dormitory at 402-472-1044. Each dormitory room will have a private phone line and this number will be available to you at check in. The camp director can be reached at his office at 402-472-3686 and at home at 402-486-3628. Both numbers will be checked regularly for messages the week of the camp.

Any students who are in need of any type special accommodations are strongly encouraged to contact us and discuss them in advance. These may involve physical handicap, learning disability, dietary restrictions, or special medical needs. We will work diligently to meet any special needs that a camper may have, but we need to be aware of these needs.

This document will be placed on the web site (<http://www.unl.edu/astrocamp>) and any important information that was inadvertently omitted will be added in bold print. You are encouraged to check the web site in the days immediately before the camp for any last minute communication.

The camp will conclude at noon on Saturday, July 19 and you should check out of the dormitory before 10 am. Your family members are invited to attend Saturday morning class from 10:00 am to 11:30 am with you. A continental breakfast will be

available for you and your family. Guided tours of departmental facilities such as the student observatory and the solar telescope will be available from 11:30 am until noon.

We look forward to meeting you on July 13. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further question.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Kevin M. Lee
Research Assistant Professor
Center for Science, Mathematics, & Computer Education
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy