Understanding the Night Sky workshop a big success in Pawnee

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Editor

Nearly 40 youth gathered at the Pawnee County fairgrounds Saturday, June 16, to participate in a workshop funded by a NASA Ideas Program grant. "Understanding the Night Sky" introduced the young people to astronomy by giving information, showing resources for stargazers, and having them make simple instruments for studying the night sky.

Dr. Kevin Lee, astronomy instructor at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, directs the Science & Education Partnerships and Public Outreach (SEPPO) which presented this hands-on workshop.

During the afternoon session, a wealth of information was given about planets, stars, moons, and the solar system. The children learned how to use a star chart and were introduced to a website that simulates the movement of stars and planets relative to date and time.

Circumpolar stars are visible all the time because they circle the North Celestial Pole (a spot directly above the equator where the North Star, Polaris, is located). Other stars rise in the east and set in the west. Planets are also visible at different times of the year; to the naked eye, they appear to be very bright stars.

The first tool the children made was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time. The star clock was a star clock. Stars have long been used to tell time.

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