Planetariums

The Lawrence Hall of Science has some great planetarium shows to enjoy:

Traditions of the Autumn Sky. An interactive presentation to illuminate all of the stellar sights visible in the Bay Area night sky, including the Moon and planets.

Mission to the Red Planet. Find our nearest neighboring planet in our Berkeley nighttime (or pre-dawn) sky. Explore the features of the planet, which includes the largest mountain and the longest canyon in our Solar System. Learn about all of the missions to Mars, from orbiters to landers and rovers--and even a miniature helicopter!

https://lawrencehalloffscience.org/exhibits/planetarium/

Comets

Comet Nishamura is not going to get very far above the horizon for us, but there is a chance that its tail might be visible, so look to the west after sunset and you may get lucky!

Constellations

The Summer Triangle is high overhead in the evening. This asterism consists of Vega in the constellation of Lyra, the lyre, which was often marked on star maps as a vulture or eagle holding a lyre; Deneb in Cygnus the swan; and Altair in Aquila, the eagle. These avian representatives combine to make the triangle shaped asterism, which is an unofficial constellation. There are many other stories to be read in the stars above us. Hercules is striding right next to Lyra; Draco the dragon is hanging right above them while Ursa Major, the big bear, is at Draco’s tail. Meanwhile, Queen Cassiopeia, just to the east on her crooked throne, seems to be watching the spectacle playing out before her.

The Planets

Venus rises around 5 a.m. as the Morning Star. Saturn is back in our evening sky and rises just as it gets dark with Jupiter clearing the Hills just after 10 p.m.
Telescopes @Berkeley Public Library!

We have 5 Orion StarBlast Astro Reflector Telescopes that you can borrow! Each BPL Branch has a telescope, which may be borrowed for 1 week. Place a hold on it and then pick it up from your branch when it is ready. It is fairly easy to carry at 13 lbs., and stands about 2 feet tall.

Here’s what you get:

"A great compact grab-and-go telescope designed for entry-level and intermediate astronomy enthusiasts. Substantial 4.5" aperture and fast f/4 focal ratio provides bright, detailed views of solar system targets like the Moon and planets, as well as wide-field celestial objects like nebulae and star clusters."

Much of the information for this report comes from the wonderful web site, Heavens Above. You can enter your home city location and bookmark it for easy access: http://www.heavens-above.com. Other stellar sources include: http://www.space.com and http://www.nasa.gov. And check spacex.com for launches.

Binoculars @Berkeley Public Library!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Cal Falcons program, we have 9 Vortex-Raptor binocular kits that you can put on hold and pick up at the location of your choice.

Here’s what you get:

Porro prism performance in a mid-size, wide-angle design, the Raptors deliver a bright, crisp image with excellent color fidelity - even in low light conditions. With a wide range of interpupillary distance, they can easily be adjusted to fit anyone in the family, making them ideal for serious, hard-core youth hunters. The kit comes with a copy of The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western America and a pocket guide to local birds of the SF Bay Area. But it is also great for looking at planets, the moon and the stars!

This Sky Report is brought to you by Berkeley Public Library’s Cornerstones of Science, which is funded in part by the Silberstein Foundation. Cornerstones of Science is part of a multi-library initiative to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming to patrons.