

TAWBAS Dark Sky Festival: August 29 – September 1, 2024

August 29 (Thu)	August 30 (Fri)	August 31 (Sat)	September 1 (Sun)
<p>Updated: 27 August 2024</p> <p>Subject to changes.</p> <p>Fort Smith Star Park = Roberta Bondar Northern Observatory</p>	<p>Fort Smith Mission Historic Park</p> <p>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm STEM Science Lab - STEM science activities <i>Hosted by Aurora Research Institute</i></p> <p>1:00 pm to 4:00 pm TAWBAS Presentations 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm - Basic Astronomy & Our Night Sky - Satellite Constellations, or Space Junk?</p> <p>2:45 pm to 3:45 pm - Impacts of Light Pollution on Nature & Birds <i>(Roland Dechesne)</i> - Basic Night Sky Photography <i>(Mark McGuire)</i></p>	<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>1:00 to 3:00 pm STEM Science Activity - Robot kits, science games -----</p> <p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Hike Our Solar System - Interpretive hiking tour of the solar system <i>Mike Couvrette / Roland Dechesne</i></p> <p>3:00 pm to 4:00 pm TAWBAS Presentation - Meteor Impacts (Earth Gets Smacked)</p>	<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy - Interpretive hiking tour of the Milky Way <i>Arthur Dent, Ford Prefect, Zaphod Beeblebrox</i></p> <p>3:30 pm to 5:00 pm Solar Observing and Presentation - Exploring our sun</p>
<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>6:30 pm to 7:00 pm Welcoming thoughts and blessing</p>			
<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Presentation - Indigenous Skies – Presentation <i>Stories of night sky – an Indigenous perspective</i></p> <p>8:00 pm to 9:30 pm Festival Social Opportunity - Relaxing meet and greet (refreshments, snacks)</p>	<p>Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre</p> <p>7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Keynote Session - Are We Alone ? <i>Roland Dechesne</i></p>	<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>7:30 pm to 9:30 pm Musical Interlude</p> <p>7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Spaced Themed Musical Trivia - Hear snippets of classic tunes – all space themed</p> <p>8:30 pm to 9:30 pm Sunset Concert - Musical performance and sing-along <i>Bradley Ross</i></p>	
<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>9:30 pm to Midnight Observatory Tour - Dr. Roberta Bondar Northern Observatory</p> <p>Night Sky Viewing - Viewing / Night sky photography</p>	<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>8:30 pm to 9:30 pm DSF Sci-Fi Movie Challenge - <i>a late night, double feature, picture show ...</i></p> <p>9:30 pm and beyond Night Sky Observing - Guided and casual night sky viewing</p>	<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>9:30 pm and beyond Fire Side Social and Stories</p> <p>Night Sky Viewing - Telescopes, constellation ID</p>	<p>Fort Smith Star Park</p> <p>9:00 pm to Midnight Observatory Tour - Dr. Roberta Bondar Northern Observatory</p> <p>Night Sky Viewing - Viewing / Night sky photography</p>

TAWBAS Dark Sky Festival – Original Activity Descriptions

Date / Time	Activity	Description
Thu – Aug 29 7:00 to 8:00 pm	Presentation - North American Indigenous Skies	Presentation highlighting stories from various North American Indigenous cultures of our night sky and a look at variations of the composition of star constellations.
Fri – Aug 30 1:00 to 4:00 pm	STEM Science Lab - STEM science activities	Engaging/interactive science activities to teach and entertain youth about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).
Fri – Aug 30 1:30 to 2:30 pm	TAWBAS Presentations - Basic Astronomy & Our Night Sky	Your presenter will provide a casual tour of the night sky as viewed from your backyard. This “crash course” in stargazing will guide you through what you can see in the sky.
Fri – Aug 30 1:30 to 2:30 pm	TAWBAS Presentations - Satellite Constellations, or Space Junk?	Presenter Mike C will talk about the proliferation of satellite constellations (StarLink, etc.), their potential impacts to our night sky. We will also look at what happens when they stop operating.
Fri – Aug 30 2:45 to 3:45 pm	TAWBAS Presentation - Impacts of Light Pollution on Nature & Birds	Presentation by Roland Dechesne: This talk will examine a number of harms that Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) generates in ecological systems, and what steps can be taken to mitigate these effects.
Fri – Aug 30 2:45 to 3:45 pm	TAWBAS Presentation - Basic Night Sky Photography	Tawbas volunteer, Mark McGuire will demonstrate techniques and tips for photographing night sky objects with DSLR cameras and your cell-phone.
Fri – Aug 30 7:00 to 8:00 pm	Keynote Presentation - Are We Alone? (<i>Roland Dechesne</i>)	Join Roland as he uses humour and logic to explore the possibility of intelligent alien life in the Milky Way galaxy and whether or not such life would have targeted Earth in *their* search for life.
Fri – Aug 30 8:30 to 9:30 pm	DSF Sci-Fi Movie Challenge - a late night, double feature, picture show	Science fiction movie trivia session w prizes. From viewing short clips (~30 seconds) participants must guess movie name, starring actor or actress, etc. This will include some classic “B” movies.
Sat – Aug 31 1:00 to 3:00 pm	STEM Science Activity - robot kits, science games	Interactive science activities to teach and entertain youth about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).
Sat – Aug 31 1:00 to 2:30 pm	Hike Our Solar System - Interpretive hiking tour of the solar system	During this interpretive hike, Mike and Roland will demonstrate, using a scaled mock-up, the size and some of the key features of our solar system.
Sat – Aug 31 3:00 to 4:00 pm	TAWBAS Presentation - Meteor Impacts (Earth Gets Smacked)	Planet Earth has been bombarded by objects from space and many of them have left their marks in a big way. Presentation looks at the science of meteoroids and impact sites. Demonstration included.
Sat – Aug 31 7:30 to 8:30 pm	Spaced Theme Musical Trivia - Hear snippets of classic tunes (<i>trivia</i>)	Music trivia session w prizes. Listen to space/science themed songs (a range of genre). Participants must provide the name of the song and the artist who performed our rendition of it.
Sun – Sep 1 1:30 to 3:00 pm	Hitch Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy - Interpretive hiking tour of the Milky Way	During this interpretive hike, walk your way thru a scaled mock-up of the Milky Way. Visualize its size and hear about key aspects and some trivia about Arthur’s and Ford’s adventures.
Thu to Sun (Aug 29 – Sep1) 9:30 to midnight	Observatory Tour / Night Sky Viewing - Dr. Roberta Bondar Northern Observatory	Come view sky objects through telescopes and other equipment provided by TAWBAS.