

Sherwood Observatory Basic Astronomy Course 'The Night Sky'



Course Details - 10th February 2017

Session Title	Content
Enrolment evening	Enrolment, administration and Health & Safety. Brief History of MSAS.
The Sun & Solar System	Formation, Plane of Ecliptic, Planets (basic details, how and where to spot them), Brief info on Asteroids, Pluto and KBO's.
Optical Equipment and Viewing Aids	Sky Nomenclature/Planispheres, Maps & Apps/Observing techniques. Pros & cons of various types of viewing equipment; how to set up & use them
The Earth & Moon System	Moon Formation, Phases and Timings, Surface Features, Eclipses.
Finding your way around the Night Sky. The Autumn and Winter Sky.	Why the sky changes month to month. Description of different night sky objects. Best things to see during these months with naked eye and basic equipment. Maps/Apps etc.
Finding your way around the Night Sky. The Spring and Summer Sky.	Highlight longer days and why. Best things to see during these months with naked eye and basic equipment.

Cost of course is £50 for adults and £25 for children under 16, although all children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

N.B. The society reserves the right to change the topic of any lecture without prior notice for administrative reasons, although all topics will be covered during the duration of the course.

The course will be run each Friday evening, starting at 8:00 pm. The first session will be a formal presentation, followed by a 15 minute break at 9:00 pm with refreshments. The second session will be of a more practical and interactive basis including viewing of the objects discussed, weather permitting and if the objects are visible. The session will close around 10:00 pm.

If the weather conditions permit, viewing may be available during the break and after the presentations.

Monthly Star Charts showing Constellations and key observable objects will be given out during the course.

Copies of each presentation will be available to purchase at the end of the course. There may be some handouts during the course sessions.