

On Monday, October 30, Skyscrapers, Inc., The Amateur Astronomical Society of Rhode Island, will host a “star party” for the students and families of Callahan School in Harrisville.

Members of the Society will bring a wide variety of telescopes to provide fantastic views of the heavens.

The primary focus of our attention will be a waxing gibbous Moon. Close up views of craters and other features will leave observers breathless. We may also be able to catch a few glimpses of the planet Saturn low in the southwestern sky. Its rings are quite spectacular at this time, so every effort will be made to observe this beautiful world.

Our solar system’s two outermost planets, Uranus and Neptune, will also be visible. While no detail can be seen on these two distant worlds, many of the telescopes will show them as tiny blue disks.

In addition to the above objects, there are opportunities to observe double stars, open clusters, globular clusters, planetary nebula, and even the Andromeda Galaxy.

We may not have time to observe each of these in the short time we have together, but I’m sure everyone will be pleased with the views provided and the knowledge shared by Skyscrapers members.

Important notes

- The telescopes brought by our members are expensive and delicate pieces of equipment. No horseplay around any of the instruments. Do not touch any of the telescopes. When you look through the eyepiece to view an object, do not grab hold of the eyepiece or lean against the telescope.
- Some telescopes may require a small stepstool to reach the eyepiece. Be cautious when stepping on and off.
- Also, do not use bright flashlights when you are around the telescopes. Bright light destroys a person’s night vision, preventing them from seeing detail. Cover a flashlight lens with red cellophane if you need some light for walking around.

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