

YOUR_REAL_SKY^{tm*} is offering

Talks and Tours of the Nighttime Sky

now at Observatory Park & 16th Avenue PS in Richmond Hill

Scouts & Guides Program for Fall – 2008

Description

Participants are instructed by professional astronomers Dr. Tuba Koktay and Dr. Ian Shelton (formerly of the David Dunlap Observatory) on how to find their way about the nighttime sky. You begin with direction finding and then proceed to learning about constellations and the wonders of the nighttime sky. Plenty of time is available for asking questions and receiving detailed answers. To request a reservation, please see the *Reservation Procedure* section. All tours must be requested in advance.

Fast facts:

1. **Dates & Time:** available most Weekday evenings, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm **
[** we will also consider special requests for weekend visits and/or a different start time]
2. **Duration:** lasts about 1-1/2 hours
3. **Capacity:** 75 persons maximum (30 scouts/guides minimum per tour)
4. **Cost:** \$5 per child (adult chaperones free)
5. **Program:**
 - usually begins with a short indoor presentation to discuss some basic astronomy and stargazing and to answer questions;
 - if clear, we continue outdoors with viewing constellations and planets by eye and sometimes with a small telescope;
 - if cloudy, we simulate the nighttime sky in our electronic classroom.

As we will be spending time outdoors, please make sure everyone is dressed appropriately (it cools off quickly after sunset). Your members are encouraged to bring binoculars if they have them, as it will enrich the observing experience. Tours are mindful of badge requirements and we welcome specific requests.

(* tm approval pending)

Scout/Guide Tour Booking Policies

The fee is **\$5 per scout/guide**. Leaders are generally free (*at a rate of one leader per 10 scouts/guides*). Please ensure that there is adequate supervision for your group.

We generally require that a **minimum of 30 scouts/guides** be scheduled at any particular tour. If your group is much smaller than this minimum, we suggest that you seek out another group at a similar level in order to attend jointly. We can check for a suitable partner among the groups we already have scheduled. We can handle a **maximum of 75 people** (scouts/guides+leaders) during any one tour.

We require a **minimum deposit of \$150** be paid at least 1 week prior to your tour and the balance is due on the day of your tour. Payment must be made by cash or by check made out to "Tuba Koktay". We cannot accept credit cards or Interac payments.

Please note that **tours run rain-or-shine**. In the event that weather conditions make travel exceedingly difficult or dangerous, or if some other unforeseen circumstance causes you to miss your tour, we will gladly return your deposit in full. But failure to notify us of a voluntary cancellation at least two weeks prior to your scheduled tour may result in the forfeiture of the minimum deposit. We generally allow you to change your reservation to another open date at no extra charge if you give us two-weeks notice. *Please call us at (416) 829-4482 or send e-mail to "yourrealsky@hotmail.com" as soon as you are aware of any problems with keeping your scheduled appointment.*

Regrettably, there is no easy wheelchair access into Observatory Park.

Reservation Procedure

Please provide us with the following information:

- **desired tour date**,
- an accurate count of **how many scouts/guides and leaders** will attend (...error on the high side)
- **name**, daytime **phone number** and **e-mail address** for the principle contact person representing your group.

Send this info via **e-mail** to yourrealsky@hotmail.com (please type it without formatting and send it as plain text, *NOT html, if at all possible*).

Or you can give us a call at (416) 829-4482.