

MAPS Conference 2013 - Spaceship Earth: Educating Its Crew

Make plans for a summer trip to Frederick when MAPS will assemble at the Earth and Space Science Lab of Frederick MD July 17-20, 2013.

Our hosts, Jeff Grills and Mark Bowman are working hard to make it a special event. Among the highlights, Susan Button has volunteered to organize a small dome pre-conference workshop sponsored by PIPS (Powerful Interactive Planetarium Systems) to underscore the theme, "Spaceship Earth: Educating Its Crew". Former President of MAPS, Don Knapp, will present the Margaret Noble Address at Friday's banquet, and Stephanie Bednarek from SpaceX will speak at Thursday's dinner.

We are expecting another great conference of sharing through paper talks, posters and workshops by our peers. Topics in the wind include fund raising, classroom models, Blender 3D, cosmology and national standards. Start planning now to bring your experiences and expertise into the light. Send your ideas to the hosts or Program Committee so we can build another great conference for 2013.

Frederick City and Frederick County offer a variety of activities beyond the scope of the conference. National and State parks, Civil War battlefields and museums, the historic district of downtown, amazing restaurants, fine hotels, local wineries, and beautiful scenery can add to our conference experience.

This unique host site is a complete district STEM education center with the new Natelli Observatory open for night fun, and the new Lincoln Elementary School open to hold our plenary sessions and vendor exhibits. A 35' dome, 78 theater style seats, 16 bench seats, and a 5.1 surround sound system comprises the center's Ausherman Planetarium. It features a hybrid Goto Chronos Optical Projector and an Evans and Sutherland D3 Digital Projection System. More information about our hosts can be found here: [HTTP://ESSL.SITES.FCPS.ORG](http://ESSL.SITES.FCPS.ORG)

The small dome workshop 'Livefest' kicks things off early, beginning Tuesday at 9:00am. Plan your travel accordingly to attend this special added activity. Hotel rooms are available early at the conference rate for anyone attending. A trip to Robinson Nature Center in Columbia MD is planned for anyone arriving by Wednesday morning with a focus on interactive planetarium lessons and everyone's favorite, a free lunch courtesy of Spitz Inc.

The ESSL has been in existence since 1962, and it hosted the small meeting of educators in MAPS' early history (1965) that saw the adoption of our organization's name. The center was rebuilt and newly opened in 2009. Come if only to see how STEM education can be enhanced in a school district. Stay for the rich rewards of sharing and professional development that will help all of us educate the crew of Spaceship Earth.

The summer season and low costs should bring this meeting within everyone's reach. It is a season when most of us have more time to plan a talk and a vacation trip to Maryland. Registration is not open yet, but expect it to again be less than \$200 and the hotel rooms will be as follows; single \$112.00, double \$120.00, triple \$128.00 or quad \$136.00, to include a hotel buffet breakfast daily. Since this travel will fall in the next fiscal year for some schools we hope members will be able to balance travel expenses between years. The date has not been set for 2014 and any aspiring hosts are encouraged to contact a Council officer as soon as possible.

More information will be posted here as plans and arrangements develop. Please check back.

Save the Date – MAPS Conference will be held July 17-20, 2013 at the Earth and Space Science Lab in Frederick, Maryland.



With some twists and turns!

This year's theme is – *“Spaceship Earth; Educating its Crew”*



What's Different?

Pre- Conference Event - “Lifest” - Tuesday, July 16, 9:00-5:00 . This event will be sponsored by PIPS - Powerful Interactive Planetarium Systems! It will feature tons of live lessons, the use of several portable domes, and the ESSL planetarium and classrooms. All are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity by coming early for this event!

Transitional Conference Event – Wednesday, July 17, from 10:00-1:30! Participants will take a trip to the Robinson Nature Center, tour the facility and grounds, and see the Spitz SciDome in action with a focus on interactive planetarium lessons. Lunch is sponsored by Spitz, Inc.

MAPS members are encouraged to come early and PIPS members are encouraged to stay late!

Tentative Presentations and Activities:

Earth - Moon models, Fundraising/Funding Panel, Cosmology Panel, 3D Show Production, Blender, Moon Presentations, Constellation and Astronomy Trivia competitions, Scavenger Hunts, great speakers, great food, and much more!

Needed: Activity and Lesson Presenters, Shoot Your Mouth Off Presenters, Participants – lots of participants! Contact: jeffrey.grills@fcps.org or Mark.Bowman@fcps.org

TFNS = The Fun Never Stops