



# Kopernik Observatory & Science Center

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Dear Friend,

Another amazing year of discovery and wonder is coming to an end at the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center. From the year's start with Father George Coyne, SJ, PhD, Director-Emeritus of the Vatican Observatory talking about Copernicus at the Winter Star Party, to its finish with special showings of the thought-provoking documentary *Star of Bethlehem*, Kopernik continues to offer a wide variety of quality STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education programs for students of all ages. Here are some of the exciting things that happened at Kopernik this year:

1500 people viewed the Great American Eclipse in August

220 students in grades 1-12 attended Link Summer STEM Exploration camps

more than 1000 people attended 41 Friday night programs on various topics such as the Physics of Music, the Science of Fire, Boomerangs, Beer Brewing, Dinosaur Artifacts, Drones, and the Orion and Cassini missions

1050 sixth graders from Broome and Tioga counties attended Lockheed Martin's Space Day

over 400 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts attended badge workshops and overnights

Kopernik also continued its outreach into the community, taking STEM programming to schools, libraries and other venues. Our popular portable planetarium traveled to over 40 locations this year, reaching more than 5000 students! Perhaps you heard about some of these events on the local news or read about them in the paper. Kopernik truly appreciates the outstanding coverage provided by local media outlets. It helps us spread the word about our terrific programs and our well-equipped, well-sited observatory and science center!

Kopernik will be even better equipped with the coming addition of the Kopernik Science Park, a playground with STEM-themed structures and activities! With the help of the Junior League of Binghamton, we have raised sufficient funds to complete the first phase of this exciting project. Construction will start in the spring.

We truly are grateful for the continued support of the Junior League and our other outstanding community partners. Without them, we couldn't offer as many programs and reach as many students as we do. **However, we need your help, too.** Grants, tuition, and admission fees cover only a portion of our costs. We also need donations from generous supporters like you to help cover operating and capital expenses.

This past summer, we had to spend \$15,000 to replace our aging, cracked septic holding tank with a modern aerated septic system and smaller leaching field. We also had to upgrade our store software to accept chip-enabled credit cards. For the coming year, we would like to expand our robotics program and upgrade our robotics platforms – our robotics camps and classes have been hugely popular, filling soon after opening. We also anticipate further expenses to repair and maintain our roof and telescope domes. In addition, we are committed to offering financial aid to students who want to take our classes but do not have the resources.

**Your donation is critical to the important work done at Kopernik.**

**A tax-deductible donation in any amount would be greatly appreciated:**

\$25 can purchase a gas discharge tube for a physics class

\$50 can purchase an Arduino microprocessor for a computer science class

\$100 can provide the financial aid a student needs to attend a week-long summer camp

\$250 can purchase a complete LEGO® WeDo 2.0 robotics kit

\$500 can purchase a new digital camera for a digital imaging class

\$1000 can cover the cost of developing a new weeklong Science or Engineering camp

