



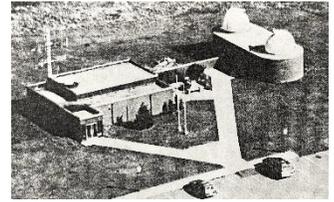
Kopernik Observatory & Science Center

2025 Annual Funding Campaign: Legacy of *Lifelong Learning*

As we embark on the second 50 years of our “Reach for the Stars” public education mission, Kopernik gratefully acknowledges the thousands of members, volunteers, and program participants who have invested their time, talent, and treasure to date. While grants from local foundations and businesses play an important role in supporting our school and cross-generational community outreach programs, **YOUR individual contributions are critical to support our recurring, annual operating expenses.** KOSC is a unique, growing, not-for-profit organization that generates impressive returns on your investments by way of our lasting educational impacts with awe and wonder dividends!

We began with a vision...

Kopernik Observatory opened its doors on June 26, 1974, five years after the Apollo 11 moon landing captured the world’s imagination. Standing on the shoulders of giants, from our own namesake, the Polish astronomer Mikołaj Kopernik (aka: Nicolaus Copernicus) to American astronaut Neil Armstrong, our founders took another “small step...giant leap” by inviting our local community “to Look Up... Dream Big” at our then new facility in the dark sky hills of Vestal.



We grew as an institution of learning

In 1993, under the leadership of our then-director, the late Jay Sarton, Kopernik Observatory grew to its current campus, adding 3 classrooms and a third telescope dome with our flagship research-grade Roger Kresge Telescope. Schools brought classes to Kopernik and the STEM-themed Summer Camps would keep students engaged over the summer break.



We grew as a place of community educational engagement and enjoyment

Kopernik Friday Night programs offer an opportunity for the community to expand their knowledge on a wide range of subjects and then have access to view the night sky through our telescopes. Family events like RocketFest, AstroFest, and Winter Star Party brings hundreds of people to our campus.



During this past year:

- We increased our school programs to engage over 2800 students.
- 209 students participated in week-long STEM summer camps.
- We offered 30 Livestream programs from our Friday Night presentations and live observing sessions. We have nearly 14,000 subscribers to our YouTube channel.
- Received a grant to purchase a STEM Van, portable planetarium and classroom set of VR headsets to bring out into the community for STEM engagement and inspiration.



Let us share in a renewed commitment to a living legacy...

If you are a first time donor to Kopernik, know that we will be good stewards of your 2025 charitable contribution to our Annual Drive. If you contribute regularly, we ask that you consider increasing your gift this year. We will make wise targeted investments in staff and resources that truly make-a-difference in our local community. Please continue to be a vital part of our ongoing mission to bring the wonders of our Spaceship Earth, planets and stars to learners of all ages. Consider how end-of-year, tax-deductible gifts “pay forward” the blessings we’ve been given and help everyone to

Look up...Dream Big.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Drew Deskur, Executive Director