

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**ADLER PLANETARIUM & ASTRONOMY MUSEUM SEEKS  
PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF METEOR'S PATH**  
*Will serve as local clearinghouse for researchers*

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum seeks help from the general public in connection with the bright meteor that occurred on Wednesday night/early Thursday morning. The fireball occurred at 11:50 p.m. local time (CST) on Wednesday night/Thursday morning, March 26/27, 2003 and was seen over a large portion of the central United States.

In an effort to establish the path the object followed in the atmosphere, scientists are seeking any **video recordings, still photographs or security camera video** taken at the time of the fireball event. Pictures of the dust cloud left behind after the fireball's passage would also be helpful.

Adler astronomers are collaborating in this project with colleagues at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, who have already obtained satellite, audio, and seismic information on this meteor strike. Based on a preliminary analysis of the data, scientists now estimate that the original object that entered the atmosphere was more than six feet across and weighed in excess of ten tons.

If enough photographic evidence can be collected of the fireball it may be possible to establish the original orbit followed by the object around the sun before it collided with the Earth's atmosphere. This will help determine the place of origin for the meteorites in our solar system. Audio recordings of the sonic boom of the fireball are also valuable in helping to establish where the fireball broke up in the Earth's atmosphere.

Members of the public with video or audio recordings of the **streak of light in the sky** (not the stones on the ground) are urged to contact Adler astronomer **Dr. Mark Hammergren at 312-322-0319, or via email at mhammergren@adlernet.org.**

Please note: Visual or other non-recorded eyewitness reports are not needed at this time.

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