

The Adler Planetarium Presents: *Galaxy Ride*—A 300-Mile Bike Journey to Andromeda!

CHICAGO – September 1, 2015 – This fall, the Adler Planetarium will lead an expedition to the Andromeda Galaxy without ever leaving the planet. *Galaxy Ride* is a science roadshow designed to get families and other curious-minded individuals excited about space science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This 300-mile bike trip will originate at the Adler Planetarium, on September 18 and conclude on September 25, at the St. Louis Science Center.

This eight-day journey, led by Adler astronomer and TED Senior Fellow Dr. Lucianne Walkowicz will include seven stops along the historical Route 66 bike trail. At each stop, the *Galaxy Ride* will bring the Universe a little closer to the public with free, space-themed, interactive science activities facilitated by Adler educators and in partnership with local schools, libraries, and astronomy clubs. Activities at each stop will be based on celestial objects and their distance from Earth as mapped on a logarithmic scale. On this scale, Chicago represents Earth and St. Louis represents our nearest neighboring galaxy—Andromeda.

Galaxy Ride is an extension of the Adler Planetarium's Chicago community outreach efforts. The popularity of local initiatives such as *'Scopes in the City'*—which brings Adler educators and telescopes into public spaces around Chicago—has inspired museum leaders to offer fun, accessible science programming to communities beyond Chicagoland. Sarah Cole, Adler Planetarium's Vice President of Visitor Experience, says of *Galaxy Ride*, "We are so excited for this truly unique opportunity. Through *Galaxy Ride*, we will be able to visit communities all throughout the state, and share our love of astronomy with them. The bike ride aspect adds another layer of fun!"

For more information, visit: <http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/events/galaxy-ride>

About Dr. Lucianne Walkowicz:

Dr. Lucianne Walkowicz is an astronomer at the Adler Planetarium and a TED Senior Fellow. She studies stellar magnetic activity and how stars influence a planet's suitability as a host for alien life. She is also an artist and works in a variety of media, from oil paint to sound. Walkowicz holds a Bachelor of Science in physics from Johns Hopkins University, and a Master of Science and PhD from the University of Washington.

Lucianne loves riding her bike all over Chicagoland, and has always been inspired by how bikes can encourage people to explore the world around them. She is excited to combine her passion for space and cycling on the Adler's *Galaxy Ride* and inspire exploration of our Universe along the way.



About the Adler:

The Adler Planetarium—America's First Planetarium—is more than a museum; it is a laboratory, a classroom, and a community exploring the Universe together. Each year, nearly 500,000 visitors experience the museum's interactive exhibitions, live planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, and world-class collections. Founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler, the Adler Planetarium is a recognized leader in public engagement. The museum's scientists, historians, and educators inspire the next generation of explorers and invite you to explore space with us.

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