

Join The Adler Planetarium For the Transit of Mercury on May 9th!

CHICAGO – April 21, 2016 –Have you ever seen Mercury in the nighttime sky? Normally, it can be surprisingly hard given its close proximity to the Sun. However, every once in awhile (on average about ten years give or take), Mercury's orbit and Earth's orbit align so that Mercury passes directly in front of the Sun as seen from Earth. This is called a "transit" of Mercury. Because Mercury is small and far away, transits of Mercury are not visible to the naked eye, but with a properly filtered telescope, Mercury can be seen as a small black dot moving across the face of the Sun. Join the Adler Planetarium to witness this rare occurrence through the Adler's Doane Observatory!

The Doane Observatory is the largest aperture telescope available to the public in the Chicagoland area. The Doane can gather over 5,000 times more light than an unaided human eye, providing visitors a unique experience to see a variety of celestial objects!

Event Details

Date: May 9

Event Time: 8am – 2pm

Location: Doane Observatory

Actual Transit Timing: 6:13 am CDT – 1:42 pm CDT

This is a FREE event and open to the public. For more information, visit:

<http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/events/transit-mercury>

About the Adler Planetarium:

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, over 550,000 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.