

Galaxy RIDE

CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS
SEPTEMBER 18-25

@adlerplanet   #AdlerGalaxyRide
Visit adlerplanetarium.org/galaxy-ride for more information.

ADLER
PLANETARIUM



GALAXY RIDE OVERVIEW

Galaxy Ride is a science roadshow designed to get families and other curious people excited about space science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This 300-mile bike trip will begin on Chicago's Museum Campus at the Adler Planetarium, make several stops along the historical Route 66 bike trail, and conclude at the St. Louis Science Center.

The eight-day journey, led by Adler astronomer and TED Senior Fellow Dr. Lucianne Walkowicz, will include seven stops. 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 some of our educators and in partnership with local schools, libraries and astronomy clubs along the way. The themes of each stop will be based on celestial objects and their distance from Earth as mapped on a logarithmic scale (details on page 3). In this case, Chicago represents Earth, while 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 sparked a latent curiosity amongst the general public to learn about science in fun, accessible ways. With *Galaxy Ride*, the Adler will share its expertise in science education, storytelling, and experiential learning with a broader audience.



ABOUT LUCIANNE

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 B.S. in Physics from Johns Hopkins University, and a M.S. and PhD from 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.

SCHEDULE

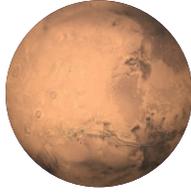


Day 1: September 18

**Joliet Area
Historical Museum**

*Joliet, IL
5-7 pm*

Moon & Satellites



Day 2: September 19

**Prairie Creek
Public Library**

*Dwight, IL
4-6 pm*

*Near-Earth Objects,
Mars, & Sun*



Day 3: September 20

Travel to Normal, IL



Day 4: September 21

Normal Public Library

*Normal, IL
5-7 pm*

*Kuiper Belt Objects,
Oort Cloud, & Pluto*



Day 5: September 22

Lincoln Public Library

*Lincoln, IL
5-7 pm*

*Alpha Centauri
& Proxima Centauri*



Day 6: September 23

Illinois State Library

*Springfield, IL
5-7 pm*

*Neighborhood Stars
& Radiosphere*



Day 7: September 24

Litchfield Public Library

*Litchfield, IL
5-7 pm*

*Edge of the Milky Way
& Black Holes*



Day 8: September 25

**James S. McDonnell Planetarium
St. Louis Science Center**

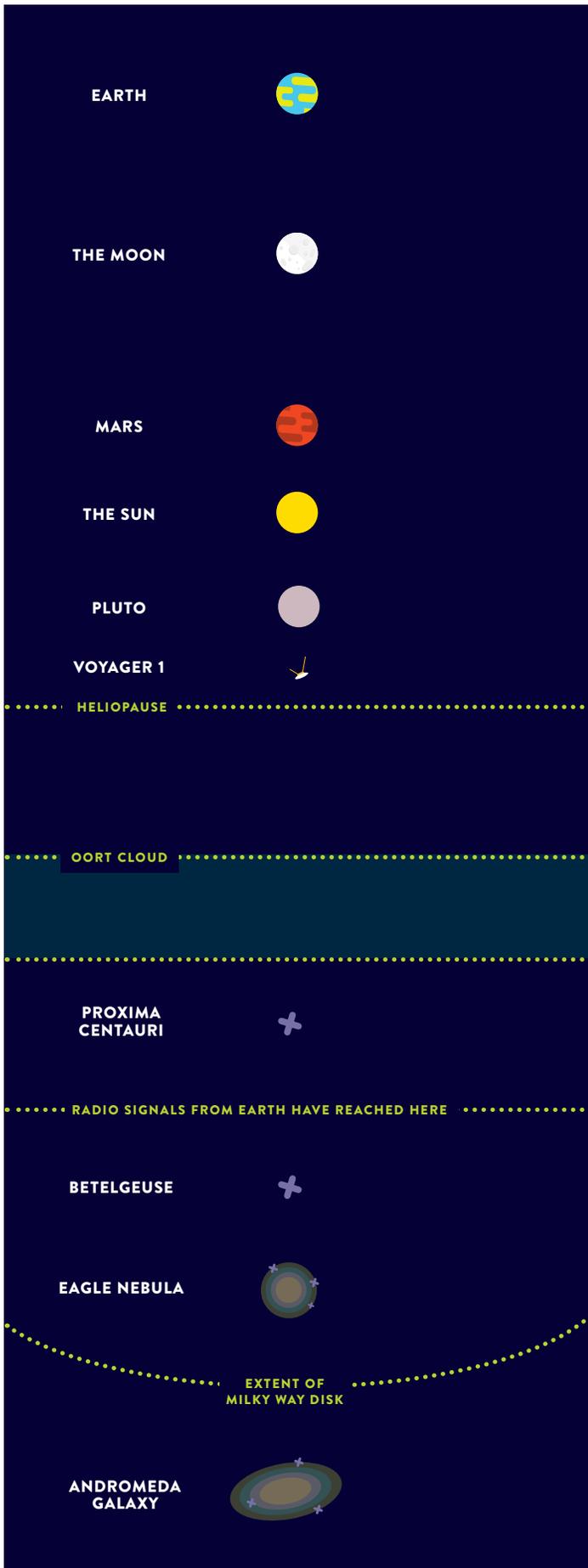
*St. Louis, MO
5-7 pm*

Andromeda Galaxy

HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON SCIENCE

At each location, Lucianne and the *Galaxy Ride* team will use familiar household items (like toilet paper, string, balloons, and marbles) to visualize the logarithmic map of the galaxy and the Powers of 10 scale. Participants at each location can get involved in the demonstration by blowing up balloons to the relative size of that stop's corresponding celestial object.

Participants can also take part in telescope observing, and use plasma balls and spectrum tubes to run experiments about electricity, auroras, space travel, renewable energy sources, and measuring distances in space to gain a better understanding of our dynamic Universe.



LOG SCALE MAP OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY

Our Universe is enormous; if we scaled down the Sun to the size of a stop sign, the nearest star system would be all the way across the globe! To help our Galaxy Riders cover more ground (uh, space), we are mapping our distances on a powers-of-ten scale (also known as a logarithmic scale). In a log scale, each step is ten times as long as the previous step.

Log scales are all around us! The decibel scale, which measures the intensity of sound, and the Richter scale, which rates the strength of earthquakes, are both log scales. By using a log scale for distance, we can easily travel the nearly 2.5 million light-years to our neighboring galaxy, Andromeda, in just seven power-of-ten leaps forward, making this *Galaxy Ride* way more achievable.

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, state-of-the-art planetarium shows, hands-on, minds-on STEM education programs, cutting-edge research 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 the public to come explore space and do science with us.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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