

# CHOOSING A TELESCOPE



## ARE YOU NEW TO NIGHTTIME SKYWATCHING?

A telescope doesn't make it easier to find things in the nighttime sky. Learn the sky **FIRST** before getting a telescope.

Download a mobile phone sky app: *Sky Safari*, *Night Sky*, *Stellarium*.

Read *365 Starry Nights* by Chet Raymo.

Buy a pair of binoculars (7x35 or 10x50). This is a good option for younger children.

Your local library may have telescopes & binoculars for checkout. Try before you buy!

Attend an Adler Planetarium *'Scopes in the City* program. Look through our telescope!

Attend an amateur astronomy club meeting or skywatching night.

## Ready to buy your first telescope?

Telescope sizes are given as the diameter of the main mirror or lens.

Good beginner telescope sizes: 4.5" to 6" (100 mm to 150 mm).

- Examples of telescope manufacturers: Celestron, Meade, Sky-Watcher, Orion, Explore Scientific, Zhumell
- Examples: Celestron FirstScope, Orion StarBlast, Orion SkyScanner
- Price range: \$250 to \$400 (FirstScope is ~\$60)

## Ready to move up to a larger telescope?

Good medium-level telescope sizes: 6" to 8" (150 mm to 200 mm).

- Examples: Sky-watcher Collapsible or Traditional Dobsonian, Orion SkyQuest XT6 or XT8 Classic or PLUS
- Price range: \$300 to \$600

## Ready to get an advanced telescope that can find & track objects?

This is not usually a beginner's option. You may still need to know what the telescope is looking at in order to align it.

- Examples: Celestron NexStar 6SE or 8SE
- Price range: \$600 to \$1200

Do your homework. Read reviews. Buy from a vendor with a service team that can answer any questions you have before and after you buy.

*Note: The telescope models & manufacturers listed above are examples only. This is not an exhaustive list and these telescope models and manufacturers are not necessarily recommended by The Adler Planetarium. Choose telescopes and accessories that are right for your personal situation. The Adler Planetarium assumes no liability or responsibility from the use or misuse of this information.*

## ASTRO CLUBS IN NE ILLINOIS

- Chicago Astronomical Society
- Fox Valley Astronomical Society
- Kankakee Area Stargazers
- Lake County Astronomical Society
- Naperville Astronomical Association
- Northwest Suburban Astronomers
- Skokie Valley Astronomers

