

Alabama Nature Center Solar System Stroll

Hang planets and laminated lithographs at appropriate locations around the trail system the evening before? (See ANC_SolarSystemStroll.doc and/or 'AL Nature Center.kmz')

Weather permitting, hang model spacecraft near associated bodies. (Cassini is studying Saturn, MESSENGER is orbiting Mercury, Dawn is at Vesta, NEAR is retired on Amor, New Horizons is enroute to Pluto and beyond, ...)

Possible guided walk of the Solar System later in the day?

Under the pavilion:

Our Sun, Mercury and Venus occupy different tables with associated lithographs, mini-globes, solar pizzas, ...

A few other tables with random astronomical education material, including: Moon Event cards, Solar System sorting cards, Marvel Moon comic pages (available to those who visit various planets), Interactive Solar System toy, ... Guests can also borrow a Solar System Stroll guidebook for exploring a scale model of our Solar System as they walk the many trails at Lanark. Guests will also have the opportunity to make their own pocket Solar System, illustrating the general scale of distances between the worlds of our Solar System. (They will be first asked to mark their guess on one side of the register tape, then they will be given the proper scaling which can be marked on the reverse side.)

Earth/Moon table with Moon Event Cards, Spring or Neap Tide wheel & lunar tennis ball globes.

Nearby to the pavilion:

Telescope observations of the Sun through two different solar telescopes, capable of viewing solar prominences or surface sunspots/ faculae.

Sundials

Build your own origami wrist-worn sundial

Behind the pavilion:

Display asteroid belt information/model spacecraft along Turkey Creek/Stillwater Run connector

Stomp rocket launching just beyond along gravel trail. (Those who wish to build their own rocket may take it home with them.)

Details on additional educational material at each object:

Sun – Solar Pizza, 2004 National Geographic issue, lithograph

Mercury – with MESSENGER spacecraft model and lithographs of both planet & spacecraft.

Venus – lithograph

Earth/Moon – if weather permitting, place Moon Event Cards and Earth/Moon globes here as well as Earth/Moon lithographs

Mars - 6" Mini globes and lithograph

Asteroid Belt – Compare Earth & largest asteroids banner, 'Dawn' model, 'NEAR' model, lithograph

Juno spacecraft – found along Turkey creek trail just before Stillwater Creek trail ties in

Jupiter – 10 Jupiter's banner, lithograph

Saturn – with Cassini spacecraft model and lithographs of both planet & spacecraft

Uranus – found on the boardwalk at the Cypress Grove viewing dock or just a little beyond, lithograph

Neptune – about halfway around the Anise loop, lithograph

New Horizons spacecraft – found past first driveway on the right after leaving Lanark

Pluto – found at the stop sign at Lanark and Edgewood roads upon leaving AL Nature Center (hang globe here but leave lithograph for Pluto/Kuiper Belt under the pavilion)

No markers for the following but:

Voyager 1 would be on the far end of the first bridge southbound on I-65 just south of Lanark

Voyager 2 is found at the baseball park in Millbrook off Shirley Road