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## Blog

### Overnight in the Greenhouse

Posted by admin on March 6, 2014



Launch your spring with an overnight stay at the [Potawatomi Conservatory](#) in South Bend, IN. The escape from winter begins March 21 at 7:00 p.m. and concludes March 22 at 8:30 a.m. My tent is already packed.

Here's the original [announcement](#) on Facebook from the South Bend Adventure Club, with registration details to follow:

Need a little taste of summer to chase away the winter blues? Spend the night in the Potawatomi Conservatories surrounded by lush tropical plants and greenery. \$15 per person includes admission, guided star/planet gazing by local astronomer Chuck Bueter

and s'mores! Share a potluck dinner with old and new friends, enjoy learning about this cultural treasure and yoga enthusiasts can join a Saturday morning class with Jamie Robinson at 9am for \$5.



So, what will the astronomy component be?

I invite you to propose ideas of what we can do astronomically at the Potawatomi Conservatory. Got a wish list? Here are some initial thoughts:

- Observe Jupiter and its moons, plus other celestial highlights visible in an urban night sky through telescopes.
- Track and photograph the sun at the vernal equinox, in the spirit of CityHenge.
- Construct a scale model of the solar system using the Arizona Desert Dome as the sun.
- Highlight or hunt for astronomy features within the Conservatory, such as the sundial gnomon, the Starfruit plant, and more.
- Observe sunspots through solar telescopes by day.
- Use the sectioned ceiling of the Arizona Desert Dome to support Paper Plate Astronomy activity.



[Contact me](#) with your ideas. Thanks.



Click map to enlarge.

Update: March 18, 2014

### Bonus Event Added

Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB) has recently installed a new 16" telescope in a domed wall cylinder atop a campus building near the Potawatomi Conservatory. Dr. Jerry Hinnefeld, IUSB Professor of Physics, will give a limited number of *Conservatory Overnighter* participants a first view of the new equipment. The telescope is a Meade LX200-ACF (Schmidt-Cassegrain) on a Paramount ME robotic mount.

You can [reserve a ticket to the Tropical Overnighter](#) for free, but then pay \$15 at the door. The first 25 people to bring a potluck dish to the Potawatomi Conservatory will each receive a ticket for free admission to the observatory tour.



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**Tags**

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A portion of the proceeds from *Tropical Overnighter in the Greenhouse* will benefit [AstroCamp](#), a week-long stargazing adventure for kids, ages 9-13.



