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Comet Festival After Perihelion

Posted by admin on March 24, 2013



Welcome to the **2013 Comet Festival**, a community celebration of the predictability, uncertainty, and wonder of nature. Proposed events at multiple Michiana venues include an art exhibit, guest speakers, a community treasure hunt, family activities, food and beverage specials, and observing with telescopes.

The festival will technically begin when Comet ISON makes its closest approach to the sun around 5:00 p.m. EST (UT-5) on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. Only about a million miles from the surface of the sun, the icy comet will encounter searing heat that expels copious debris from the solar system interloper. In its wake the comet will likely leave a distinctive tail.

Opening events for the Comet Festival will be Saturday, November 30, coinciding with Small Business Saturday in South Bend, IN.

If the comet survives its sungrazing and emerges on the other side, it has the potential to be a grand sight before sunrise in the first days of December. It makes its closest approach to earth around December 28. A [video by Richard Bell](#) shows sungrazing comets from the perspective of the SOHO spacecraft. Many comets succumb to the sun's extreme influence, and Comet ISON could be among them.

Comets are admittedly fickle, and this one could emerge from the sun as a twilight spectacle in December or be destroyed by its close encounter on Thanksgiving Day. We don't know. But therein lies part of the mystery that we anticipate.

The events of this celestial celebration are modeled on the community support for the 2012 transit of Venus and its [TROVE successes](#). Please share your talent, ideas, and resources as we prepare for the 2013 Comet Festival. A home website is at www.cometfestival.com. Thanks for your support.

Notes: Michiana is the region near the Michigan/Indiana border. The posters shown are drafts for now, needing correct dates, credits for images, and other improvements.

See www.cometfestival.com.

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