

KEEP SEDONA BEAUTIFUL

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December 7, 2020

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Greetings!



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Upcoming Verde Valley Dark Sky Virtual Science Café for Families

Keep Sedona Beautiful is happy to promote an upcoming, free **Dark Skies event on Friday, December 11, the Verde Valley Dark Sky Virtual Science Café.**

This is a first-ever hybrid event for children (ages 2-12) and adults to learn more about our Dark Skies through online presentations and open-air activities. The online event happens from **6:30 to 7:30 PM**, but there are before and after activities open to all.

Participants can get ready for the Science Cafe with a Facebook Watch Party at 6:10 PM on the Camp Verde Community Library Facebook page and then tune in to the Dark-Sky Science Cafe for an informational and interactive presentation facilitated by Zack Garcia.

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After the online component, everyone is encouraged to get outside to view the night sky and practice what's been learned. Stargazers are encouraged to share what they see in the skies (from their own backyards) at **#VVlovesSTEM**.

Keynote speaker for the online event will be Dr. Jeffrey Hall, director of Lowell Observatory. Other presenters include **Dave Jones** (Camp Verde Dark Sky Community), **Kal Mannis** (Arizona Science Center), **Erin Cody** (Verde NRC Environmental Education Center), and **Laurie Altringer** (Science Vortex Children's STEM+Art Center). Participants will learn about the importance of protecting the night sky from light pollution, the effects of gravity in the solar system, and easy-to-use astronomy apps for identifying stellar objects.

Register for the Verde Valley Dark Sky Virtual Science Café at vvdarkskysciencecafe.eventbrite.com

The Virtual Science Café is a collaborative effort led by the Camp Verde Dark Sky Community, the Camp Verde Community Library, the Science Vortex of the Verde Valley, and the Verde NRC Environmental Education Center.

The Camp Verde Dark Sky Community is a new non-profit dedicated to protecting and preserving Camp Verde's dark night skies through public education and other related events and initiatives. The other three organizations are teaming together to provide a series of #VVlovesSTEM events funded by the Verde Valley STREAM Council/RAIN and the National Science Foundation. This is the first of twelve events designed to expand science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning opportunities for people of all ages throughout the Verde Valley.

Science Vortex in Cottonwood, another new nonprofit, was organized in 2019 to have a positive impact on children's critical-thinking abilities, creativity, and STEM literacy. The center provides hands-on, interactive exhibits, as well as enticing learning materials and engaging programs. Programming started with virtual and in-person summer camps. To date, Science Vortex has worked with more than 300 students and families throughout the Verde Valley. Through camps, field trips, after school clubs, weekly toddler times, and weekly family Makerspace



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nights, the group strives to draw children into a vortex of play, perseverance, collaboration, and innovation.

Learn more about all host organizations at:

- www.facebook.com/campverdelibrary
- www.vnrcdeec.org
- www.sciencevortex.org
- www.facebook.com/sciencevortex.org

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This Month



The **Sedona International Film Festival** brings local residents and people from all over the world together to experience the arts in one of its most unifying mediums: film. They do this at their annual nine-day film festival event and all year long at their own **Mary D. Fisher Theatre** - their year-round arthouse theater venue.

Their goal is to expand culture in Sedona and offer film-goers the chance to see award-winning new independent films from around the world that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to see.

Visit online at www.sedonafilmfestival.com or call 928.282.1177

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