Astrocamp is a stargazing adventure where boys and girls experience firsthand the joys of observing the night sky. From the moment they arrive, AstroCampers handle telescope on the shores of Corey Lake and learn constellations in a portable planetarium. They then use their new skills--after making s'mores by the campfire--to identify celestial features and to discover deep sky objects over four consecutive nights.

Observed highlights typically include the planets, the crescent moon, lots of Messier objects (nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies), satellites, and more. Several kids who stay up late measure the local sky glow with Sky Quality Meters (SQMs) in support of the Night Vision project.

By day, AstroCampers witness solar activity safely both through white light filters and through a hydrogen-alpha telescope. They combine their views of the sun on paper plates, recording emerging sunspots and outlying prominences. Other daytime activities included making and using Star Wheels, making a paper sundial, identifying stars and constellations on a celestial scavenger hunt, using computers with astronomy software, and building and launching water rockets. This is one fun astronomy camp--not school--for kids!

More images of this astronomy camp for kids are at:

For reservations for the next AstroCamp, contact YMCA Camp Eberhart in Three Rivers, Michigan, at http://campeb.org; or at 269-244-5125 or 888-YCAMPEB.

See AstroCamp 2009--"Shoulders of Giants" at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-wcKyulbkY or click below. Video shows excerpts from some past AstroCamp stargazing and experiences.

AstroCamp is featured on WNIT PBS television show Outdoor Elements (Episode #1003, Segment #1). Note that former AstroCamp attendee and part-time AstroCamp counselor Sarah is the guest of Episode #2. Click picture below or see http://www.wnit.org/outdoorelements/1000/1003/1003.html
For observing conditions at the AstroCamp site, visit the Yarger Observatory Clear Sky Clock at http://cleardarksky.com/c/YrgrObMIkey.html:

![Yarger Observatory Clear Sky Chart]

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© 2015 A. Danko. forecast: A. Rahill data: Environment Canada Environment Canada

Tables in the Light Pollution Handbook (p. 71) suggest the Yarger Observatory is an ALCoR 1 facility and an E2 district.

Links related to AstroCamp:

- [http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20090728/NEWS01/907280366](http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20090728/NEWS01/907280366)
  "Student stargazers abound at Camp Eberhart; Camp teaches children about astronomy." Story by Tribune Correspondent DL Perrin appears in the July 28, 2009, issue of the South Bend Tribune.

  Astronomer-in- Residence Darren Drake writes of his stargazing experiences with AstroCamp kids. [added Feb. 2, 2009]

  Heavens-Above Satellite Predictions

- [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com)
  Space Weather

- [http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/activities.htm](http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/activities.htm)
  Paper Plate Education Activities

  Article in the South Bend Tribune, Wednesday, July 14, 2007: Seeking the Stars; by D.L. Perrin.

- [http://www.campeb.org/summer/AstroCamp/ astroarticle.htm](http://www.campeb.org/summer/AstroCamp/astroarticle.htm)
  Article from the Holland Sentinel, Tuesday, July 26, 2005: Good heavens! Astro Campers actually eager to study stars; by Peter Burkey.

  Article in the South Bend Tribune, Wednesday, July 12, 2006: Camping with the Stars; by D.L. Perrin.
Meet the 2006 AstroCamp Instructors

Note: This AstroCamp webpage is provided as a courtesy by a private party and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of YMCA Camp Eberhart.