



MIDDLE ATLANTIC PLANETARIUM SOCIETY

2011 Conference

May 4-7, 2011

INVITATION to MAPS 2011: *Teaching in the Dark*

You are cordially invited to a MAPS first: a conference hosted by three separate facilities in southeastern Pennsylvania and south Jersey, May 4-7, 2011.

Hosts. Your hosts will be the Sandy Run Middle School Planetarium, directed by Kim Small, in Dresher PA; the H. W. Ray Special Experiences Room, Centennial School District, directed by Don Knapp, in Warminster PA; and the Edelman Planetarium, directed by Keith Johnson, in Glassboro NJ.

Pre-registration. The preregistration deadline is April 6; to avoid a late registration fee, mail your registrations before then. A registration form should have accompanied this invitation. You must be a MAPS member to attend. If you received this invitation via snail mail, check your mailing label for the last year you were a member; if it's not 2011, include a membership fee of \$25 in your registration.

Hotel. The Holiday Inn Fort Washington (www.fwholiday.com; (800) 339-0209; 432 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Washington PA 19034) will serve as the conference headquarters. It's located north of Philadelphia, just off the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276) at exit 339. The closest airport is the Philadelphia Airport on the south side of the city. We won't be able to provide shuttle service, but an hourly shuttle directly to the hotel is available for \$53 roundtrip, cash only (Tropiano Transportation, www.tropiano transportation.com/shuttle/, 610-640-9494; reservations required). Regional rail from the airport to very near the hotel is also available (www.septa.org) for about \$10; trip time is slightly over an hour.

The hotel will provide single and double rooms at a cost of \$99 per night if you identify yourself as an attendee at the conference. Hotel registration is the responsibility of the member, of course. To be sure of getting a room at this reduced rate, be sure to **book your reservation on or before April 6** (also the conference registration deadline, after which you'll be assessed a late fee). The hotel provides free wireless internet, a fitness center, free parking, and doors with government-approved doorknobs.

Presentations. We encourage you to present a paper, a planetarium mini-lesson, or a workshop. For the first time in MAPS history (we believe), presentations will be given in three locations: Glassboro on Thursday, and the other two facilities on Friday. It's likely all presentations will be given in a dome, so consider showing us anything you have found that works well in the dome. Posters are also welcome. A proposal form is included in this packet.

Theme. Since all three host planetariums are part of a school, we chose the theme "Teaching in the Dark." If you've found a new way to entice children—and adults!—to learn in your dome, using new formats or old, why not let us see it? We all have creative methods to share. And we're all educators!

Meals. Your conference registration will include the evening reception on Wednesday, breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday, coffee breaks, the banquet on Friday night, and coffee on Saturday. Thursday night you'll be on your own for dinner; maps and directions will be supplied, or you can take advantage of the hotel restaurant and lounge. The famous/ notorious MAPS hospitality suite will be open Thursday and Friday nights.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact Keith Johnson. We hope to see you all in May!

Keith Johnson, Edelman Planetarium
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