



Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) Stargazing Education Outreach Event

Howard B. Owens Science Center (HBOSC) Planetarium

September 15th, 2015

8:00 pm to 11:30 pm



**Co-sponsored by SHADES OF BLUE DC/MD/VA Chapter and
Science, Mathematics, Aerospace, Research, and Technology (S.M.A.R.T.)**



Back view of the SOFIA telescope in the back of the plane



Nichelle Nichols (Lt./Commander of the Starship Enterprise on Star Trek) will control pointing the SOFIA telescope



Outside view of the back end of the plane, with a sliding door, to point telescope to the star birthing area of the universe for astronomical research

A 747 Jumbo Jet has been reconfigured for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) that flies above the clouds (41,000 to 45,000 ft. altitudes) to view selected targets in the universe. On September 15, 2015, Nichelle Nichols (Lt./Commander Uhura of the Starship Enterprise on Star Trek) will be on the SOFIA Stargazing flight that will be flying at 40,000 ft. altitude, pointing the telescope to a star birthing area of the universe, and answering questions from students. The flight will go from California to the east coast (to Nova Scotia, Canada) and back to California - an 11-hour flight with in air refueling.

The outreach event at the HBOSC Planetarium will be in two parts: 1) Family Night with science, aviation, and Trekker presentations to provide background information for the attendees and 2) the SOFIA flight that leaves California at 7:30 pm west coast time and 10:30 pm east coast time. Students are encouraged to send their questions, for Nichelle Nichols, ASAP and include their name, age, and location (city and state). There may also be an astronaut joining us at the HBOSC, 9601 Greenbelt Rd., Lanham, MD, 20706.

For more information & to send student questions, contact:

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