

Come along with a young woman on her personal quest to find a special place in the night sky

Running times: 24:30 full length 20:00 special edit (both provided)

Grade level: General Public especially appropriate for elementary grades and family audiences

Sky Quest is an exploration of the stars, planets, and constellations told from the viewpoint of an astronomer. Share her lifelong fascination with the heavens — from her childhood adventures on Mars (via a cardboard rocket) — to the discovery of her "birthday star" that led her to become an astronomer and build her own mountain-top observatory.



Our astronomer shares her telescope views of solar system objects and talks about manned landings on the Moon, future missions to Mars,



Hubble Space Telescope studies of Jupiter, and the glorious rings of Saturn. Along the way she points out her favorite stars, and explains how she learned to find the constellations with simple star-hopping techniques. She encourages everyone to make the time to look up, even if it means stargazing in urban areas with light pollution.

Sky Quest is an entertaining and educational exploration of the night sky that appeals to family members of all ages. Grade-school children may identify most with the main character depicted as an 8-year-old "astronaut" in a charming opening "home movie" style vignette.



Narrated by Roxann Dawson Written by Carolyn Collins Petersen Produced by Mark C. Petersen Original artwork by Tim W. Kuzniar Sky Quest was produced by Loch Ness Productions for the Albert Einstein Planetarium of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air & Space Museum, Washington, D.C.





Science Education Content

The educational focus of *Sky Quest* is to introduce easily observable objects in the night sky with emphasis on finding them and knowing their characteristics. It also stresses the idea that anyone with an interest can participate in astronomy observations and take astronomy up as a hobby and a career choice. These concepts are woven throughout the program and help relate the information presented in the show to the lives of students, families, and the general public.

The show's content is relevant in these subject areas:

Earth and Space Sciences:

- Objects in the sky: Earth, Mars, Mars satellites, stars
- Positions and motions of objects in the sky: Moon, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the stars and constellations

Science in personal and social perspectives:

- Light pollution as a human effect on the environment
- Astronomy as a career

Science as a Human Endeavor/Inquiry:

- Using binoculars, telescopes, and spacecraft instruments to study the sky
- The Apollo missions to the Moon
- The Voyager missions to the outer planets
- The Hubble Space Telescope's astronomical observations

This show adheres to principles put forth in the National Academy of Sciences' Education Standards published in 1996. For more details, visit the NAS Standards Web site at: http://books.nap.edu/html/nses/html/index.html.

The glare of city streetlights washes out the faint stars ...



... just one of the ~44,000 dome master frames in this show.



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