

Heart of America Star Party

June 12-17, 2007

Kansas City is one of the nation's most active astronomy communities. We're home to the Astronomical League – the world's largest amateur astronomy organization and the Astronomical Society of Kansas City (ASKC) - one of our country's largest astronomy clubs.

Early 2005 ASKC acquired 40 acres to develop into a private Dark Sky Site (DSS). Located approximately 75 miles south of Kansas City in the Marais des Cygnes (pronounced Mare des Zeen) River Valley, this pristine site is bordered by the 7200 acre Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area. Rich in history, the region was well known to the French trappers in the early 1800's who observed large flocks of swan (Cygnes). Later, the 2nd largest single day cavalry battle of the Civil War was fought at nearby Mine Creek, KS. A first class museum is located on the battlefield for tours. Butler, MO, approximately 15 miles to the northeast has hotels, restaurants and a beautiful aquatics center, including swimming pools and showers for the family.

DSS is a private astronomy site encompassing 40 acres. Plenty of room for tents, trailers, and RVs. Porta potties will be available. We plan to have two showers installed by Star Party time. Please bring your own drinking water. Electricity will be provided on a first come, first serve basis for astronomical equipment.



City of Butler, MO website with aquatics center picture:

www.ci.butler.mo.us

Mine Creek Museum:

www.civilwaralbum.com

Activities:

Beginners Field School

Observing Challenge - We'll publish a list of challenge objects for all levels of proficiency.