

# Yerkes Observatory



**Yerkes Observatory** was established by The University of Chicago in the 1890's in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Today it is active as an

educational outreach center as well as continuing to be used for astrophysical research. It occupies spacious grounds at 373 W. Geneva Street, Williams Bay, Wisconsin - about six miles west of the City of Lake Geneva.

Renowned astronomer George Ellery Hale conceived and designed the observatory. Chicago transit tycoon Charles Tyson Yerkes donated the funding for its construction.



Visitors may attend free programs every Saturday throughout the year at 10 a.m., 11 a.m.,

and 12 p.m. Visitors enter the 90-foot dome, one of the largest of its kind. Here, they can see the 40-inch refractor telescope, the world's largest lens-type telescope with its impressive 73-foot diameter elevator floor. Visitors then hear a brief talk about the history of the observatory, astronomical research conducted at Yerkes, and our amazing universe.

*Photo Credit: Courtesy of Yerkes Observatory*