

# Spitz Institute 2010

July 19 - 23

Session 1 - July 19, 20

Session 2 - July 21 - 23

Spitz Inc invites you to the sixth annual Summer Institute. During Institute we'll offer courses and workshops covering diverse topics for astronomy education in the planetarium. We'll host dozens of sessions and hands-on activities, related to teaching and presentation using new technology. Planetarians will share their programs and ideas for science education. Courses cover a range of topics from basic software use, to advanced simulation and lesson creation with Starry Night. While attending, you can also experience attractions in the Philadelphia region and the historic Brandywine River Valley.

The '10 Institute will include shows and lessons by Institute participants, local astronomers and presentations by Spitz, the staff of Starry Night software, and others.

## Schedule

The Institute includes a two-day program, and a three-day program – both sessions offering activities for beginners and advanced participants. Attendees can choose the first two day session only, the second three days, or all five days.

### July 19, 20 - Teaching Astronomy with Starry Night

Beginners attend comprehensive classes introducing them to the world of Starry Night, while experienced Starry Night operators learn to make the most out of the software for advanced astronomy presentations. Staff from Starry Night lead activities.

Session 1 includes activities for new SciDome owners, prospective digital planetarium operators, and anyone planning a digital theater or upgrade.

### July 21, 22, 23 - Media, Production, and Presentation

Session 2 details planetarium show production and presentation for beginners and experts. Along with Starry Night Dome and Spitz automation software, participants learn graphics formatting, panorama creation, realtime production techniques, and automation. Groups apply their learning by developing short planetarium presentations.

## What You'll Learn at Institute

· **The Basics:** Comprehensive training in Starry Night, including lesson preparation and space science simulation.

· **Advanced Starry Night:** Software features, custom effects and operator enhancements for effective full-dome education.

· **Presentation:** How realtime simulation and effective show scripting create memorable astronomy lessons.

· **Content:** Finding and using graphic and video assets from sources like STScI, NASA and others.

· **Multi-media:** Photo editing, audio, and panorama creation for the digital planetarium.

· **Automated Planetarium Shows** Creating complete, scripted planetarium programs using Spitz' digital systems.

· **What Other Planetarians are Doing** Lessons and demonstrations from various planetarium sites showing how they approach space-science education in the dome.

## Rates

July 19, 20 2-Day Session \$225

July 21, 22, 23 3-Day Session \$335

July 19 – 23 5-Day Session \$520

## Registration

Please complete and mail the enclosed form. Send the form with a deposit check, or call Spitz to make a credit card payment. You may also fax the form and mail a check (please include the original copy of the form). Payment is required to secure attendance. The number of attendees is limited and payments must be received by May 28th – first come, first served. Send completed form and payment to:

Spitz Inc  
PO Box 198  
Chadds Ford PA, 19317 USA  
Attn: Joyce Towne  
Fax: 610-459-3830



## Preliminary Agenda

### July 19, 20

Comprehensive introduction to Starry Night software

Advanced Starry Night and ATM-4 for SciDome users

Lessons demonstrations using Starry Night Edu software

Customizing and adding data to Starry Night

New curriculum for the classroom and dome

Finding and using images and video content for education

### July 21, 22, 23

Digital image manipulation and Photoshop basics for dome presentation

Digital audio – beginning and intermediate audio techniques

Converting legacy media (slides, video, audio) to digital formats

Automation – how to build an automated astronomy show

Panoramas – photography, stitching and formatting

Advanced Automation – ATM-4 for experienced users

Dome Multimedia – Effective use of slides and videos in digital dome presentation

## Presentation/Workshop Submissions

Attendees can share their ideas or planetarium lessons in the form of a 45-minute workshop. Topics should focus on live lesson presentation, planetarium curriculum, teaching with Starry Night, or related subjects. Workshop presenters must be experienced Starry Night or ATM-4 users, or have attended the Institute at least once.

To submit a workshop proposal, please fill out the enclosed form including a title, and abstract for the presentation. Mail or fax by June 18. Paper and workshop times are limited, so please submit early.

## Group Activity

In Session 2, attendees create a show as a group activity. Participants test their knowledge of digital presentation and production by creating a short planetarium demonstration, including opportunities for show scripting, graphic and audio preparation, realtime Starry Night presentation and show automation. Advanced users and beginners will participate.

## Computers and Software

Software for the Digital Institute will be provided by Spitz. Attendees will need to bring a laptop computer. Please contact us for minimum computer requirements.

## Who Should Attend the Spitz Institute?

Anyone who wants to learn more about teaching or developing shows with digital technology should attend. This includes:

Planetarium operators and administrators planning a new facility or an upgrade

Teachers and planetarium operators who want to share their lessons and view a variety of astronomy presentations

Planetarians who want to use or learn Starry Night software

SciDome operators

Planetarium professionals converting legacy shows for Spitz SciDome systems

