

## Santa Fe Science Café For Young Thinkers



### **“Exploring Planets Outside the Solar System”**

**Heather Knutson  
California Institute of  
Technology**

**Wednesday, Sept, 16 – 7:30 PM  
O’Keeffe Education Annex  
123 Grant St.**

The past decade has marked a period of great progress in our quest to discover and characterize the properties of the planets outside of our own solar system. Observations of eclipsing systems, in which the planet periodically passes in front of and then behind its star as seen from Earth, have given us new insight into the nature of these alien worlds. We will discuss ongoing efforts to understand the diverse properties of extrasolar planets, including their compositions, temperatures, and weather patterns, using both ground- and space-based telescopes.

**Free Admission. Youth (13-19) seating a priority, but all are welcome! Heather also will appear on the KSFR Radio Café (101.1 FM) with host Mary Charlotte at 8:30 AM that day.**

Heather was educated in physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins, Harvard and UC Berkeley. Presently she is a faculty member in Geological and Planetary Sciences at Caltech.

**Go to [www.sfafs.org](http://www.sfafs.org) or call 505-603-7468 for more information.**