

Santa Fe Science Café for Young Thinkers

“Heads Up! Protecting Earth From Large Asteroid Impacts”



Catherine Plesko
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Wednesday, February 27
6:00-7:30 PM

Georgia O’Keeffe Museum
Education Annex
123 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

Day and night little pieces of asteroids and comets, the crumbs left over from the formation of the planets in our solar system, rain down on Earth in the form of meteors. But once in a while something as big as Santa Fe hits Earth and can explode with the force of a small nuclear bomb. Luckily for us, dangerous impacts are rare and take place high over the oceans, but it’s a good idea to have a plan for the unexpected. So astronomers search the skies for new asteroids and comets and track their orbits to see which ones might be dangerous. Today we can see them sooner and in better detail and plan to take action. Come learn what scientists are doing to confront this existential threat to Earth and to all of us.

Admission is Free. Youth (ages 13-19) seating a priority. Light refreshments will be served. Catherine will also appear at 8:30 AM the same day on the **Santa Fe Radio Café** (KSFR 101.1 FM) with host Mary Charlotte streaming from www.ksfr.org.

Catherine has been a scientist at LANL since 2007. She first came to Los Alamos as a high school summer student in 1999. She is a PhD graduate of the department of the Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz. When not searching the Heavens, she spends quality time exploring running trails around Los Alamos and Santa Fe.

Sponsors: Santa Fe Alliance for Science; Santa Fe Public Schools; Georgia O’Keeffe Museum; Santa Fe Institute. Call 603-7468 for more information.