The Von Braun Astronomical Society

Night At The Observatory
Program Rules And Guidelines

The Night At The Observatory program offers guests an opportunity to direct an observing and imaging session using the historic Swanson 21" telescope within the Monte Sano State Park. Attendees to the session will help choose observing targets, imaging will be performed, and attendees will leave with copies of the images recorded that night. Contact observatory@vbas.org to book a Night At The Observatory.

Rules and Guidelines

1. The rate for a Night At The Observatory is $250 for up to six persons.
2. The rate for VBAS members for a Night At The Observatory is $200 for up to six persons.
3. Additional attendees, up to a maximum of 12, may be added for $50 per person.
4. A certified telescope operator will be assigned to each session scheduled. If no operator can commit to the date of the session, then the session date must be rescheduled.
5. Operation of the telescope will be completely under the control of VBAS personnel during the session.
6. Night At The Observatory sessions last approximately four hours and begin at a time designated by the operator, generally no earlier than local sunset and ending no later than midnight.
7. Light refreshments will be offered. Guests may bring beer or wine in moderation. However, no alcohol or food shall be served or consumed in the observatory.
8. Sessions may be postponed due to weather up to the final hour at the discretion of the operator. Sessions will be rescheduled to an alternate mutually agreeable date, or, sessions may proceed without observing, in which case a tour of the observatory, including how the telescope operates and a review of some prior images can be provided. In general, cloud cover predictions are rather accurate within 24 hours prior to a session, giving sufficient notice to coordinate a new date if needed.
9. At the end of each session, guests will be given a USB thumb drive or sent a link to a cloud server containing all images taken during the session.
10. VBAS will provide some image processing at no additional charge.