

PROGRAM DETAILS AND RESERVATIONS

Marc Wetzel, Education Coordinator

(432) 426-3672

wetzel@astro.as.utexas.edu

<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org>

McDonald Observatory Visitors Center

HC 75 Box 1337 VC

Fort Davis, TX 79734-5019



Teachers can select from a menu of activities as part of the student field experience at McDonald Observatory.



Did you know . . .

The 2002 Texas Governor's Conference on Science, Technology, and Mathematics Education named the Lone Star Sky Island Institute an exemplary partnership. McDonald Observatory paired with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and other institutions for this educational project.

The Texas Hall of Fame for Science, Mathematics, and Technology inducted Dr. Mary Kay Hemenway, astronomy education expert and advisor to McDonald Observatory's educational programs, into its ranks on January 20, 2003, in recognition of her contributions to science education in Texas.

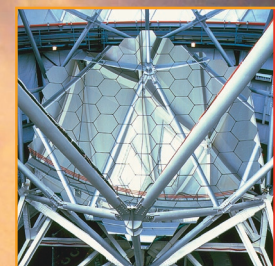
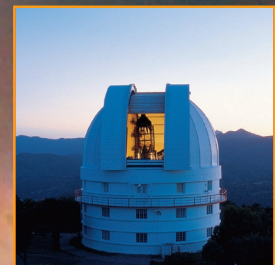
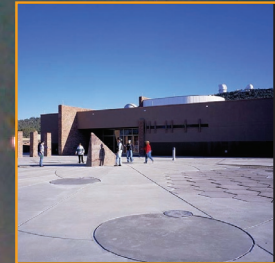
The National Science Teachers Association selected McDonald Observatory's *StarDate Classroom Activities* web site (stardate.org/teachers) for inclusion in its SciLinks list (www.scilinks.org/default.asp).

Professional Development Workshops for K-12 Science Teachers are ongoing at McDonald Observatory. mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/profdev/

Student Field Experiences K-12 Astronomy Program

The University of Texas at Austin

McDONALD OBSERVATORY




McDONALD OBSERVATORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Fort Davis, Texas



INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS WITH A FIELD TRIP TO McDONALD OBSERVATORY

McDonald Observatory is located high in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, just northwest of the charming town of Fort Davis. Astronomers from The University of Texas at Austin and around the world visit the Observatory to carry out their astronomical research and explore the universe. Through our Student Field Experience program, students are immersed in this science environment and participate in hands-on, inquiry-based activities that are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, and the National Science Education Standards.

FACILITIES

The McDonald Observatory Visitors Center features a full classroom, 90-seat theater, an astronomy park with telescopes, and the Decoding Starlight Exhibit. On the Observatory tour, students will go inside the Harlan J. Smith 2.7-meter Telescope dome or into the Hobby-Eberly Telescope viewing gallery.

“Warm, welcoming atmosphere, conducive to learning! Thanks!”
— Elementary school science teacher

“I learned things I never knew I would know.”
— 11th grade student

“This is probably the most valuable field trip we have ever taken.”
— College teacher

YOUR OBSERVATORY EXPERIENCE

Choose the General or Enriched Programs listed at right.. Call Marc Wetzel to arrange the details for your students’ field experience at McDonald Observatory. We offer you flexibility to construct a program that meets your instruction needs, including both pre- and post-visit materials to maximize the impact of your visit. Your group may join the Public Star Party (available on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only) for an additional \$2 per student. With ad to the astronomy gift shop.



THE GENERAL PROGRAM

In this half-day program, students explore the Decoding Starlight Exhibit with a grade-specific Student Exhibit Guide, and tour a large research telescope. They participate in an interactive, live telescope viewing of the Sun (weather permitting).

THE ENRICHED PROGRAM

For groups of 30 students or fewer, the Enriched Program includes all activities of the General Program plus an inquiry-based astronomy activity. Activities are designed to help students develop knowledge and skills aligned with the Science TEKS. See choices in the middle chart below.

K-12 General Program Activities	Related Science TEKS Objectives
Inquiry-based McDonald Observatory Tour	Scientific Inquiry, 5.8, IPC 4, Ast 3 (D)
Exploring the Sun	3.11, 4.11, 6.13, 8.13, IPC 8, Ast 8
Decoding Starlight	8.13, IPC 5, IPC 7, Phy 9, Ast 6

Sample Enriched Program Activities	Related Science TEKS
Constellation Games (K-3)	K.5, 1.5, 2.5
Modeling the Night Sky (3-8)	Scientific Inquiry, 3.11, 4.6, 5.5, 5.6, 5.12, 6.5
Solar System Science (5-8)	Scientific Inquiry, 5.5, 5.12, 6.5, 6.13, Ast 9 (B&D)
Equatorial Sundial (5-9)	Scientific Inquiry, 5.6, 7.13
Spectroscope (9-12)	IPC 5, Chem 6 (A), Ast 6 (B)
Star Maps (6-12)	Scientific Inquiry

Program Pricing	General	Enriched
Per student K-5	\$5	\$8
Per student 6-12	\$6	\$9
Per additional adult (beyond 1 free for every five students)	\$6	\$6