

You may earn observing points by visiting **Standeford Observatory** this semester. This observatory is located among the trees at the south end of the campus, about 400 yards beyond Gage Towers parking lot #1. You are strongly encouraged to *walk* to the observatory from campus; those who must drive to campus may park in the south end of lot #1 and walk to the observatory. ***DO NOT DRIVE BEYOND LOT 1!***

In traveling to the observatory you may wish to use the *Buddy System* – walking in groups of three or more. Alternatively, you may contact University Security (389-2111) for a walking escort; however, there may be a delay in providing the escort depending on other activities on campus.

We will try to staff the observatory on clear evenings (not cloudy ones), MTWH, from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. You may call the observatory at 389-6208 to inquire about sky conditions or to find out if the observing staff is there. Additionally, a sign on the gate will indicate whether the observatory is open or closed. The spring observing season is expected to run from April 4 through April 28.

(See <http://cset.mnsu.edu/pa/observing/hours.html>)

Up to 20 observing points may be earned, as follows:

You may observe objects in seven different classes: *bright stars*, *binary stars*, *star clusters*, *galaxies*, *nebulae*, *moons*, and *extraterrestrial planets*. You will earn one point for each object observed and recorded, with a maximum of two points awarded for any particular class on a given night. No object may be counted more than once each night.

DIRECTIONS TO STANDEFORD OBSERVATORY

To make your observations, please do the following:

- 1 Bring a pen.
- 2 **WALK – DO NOT DRIVE – to Standeford Observatory.**
- 3 Sign the Visitors' Logbook in the shed.
- 4 Obtain a 3x5 card from the table inside the shed and write the following on it:
 - the Date
 - Your Name
 - Your Course and Section Numbers
 - Your Instructor's Name
- 5 Look through the telescopes at celestial objects found by the observing assistants.
- 6 Record your observations on the card.
- 7 Turn in your card to one of the observing assistants before you leave.

A few suggestions:

- 1 Dress warmly – expect it to be about 20° colder at night than it was during the day.
- 2 Beware of mud puddles in the dark – our road is not paved.
- 3 If you bring a flashlight, please cover the lens with red cellophane or red paper.
- 4 Feel free to bring friends, cameras, binoculars, etc., but leave large clumsy dogs at home.
- 5 Please do not manipulate our telescopes without proper supervision – our repair budget is nil.
- 6 Don't leave this project until the last week – that week is always cloudy.

