

FRANK N BASH VISITORS CENTER AT McDONALD OBSERVATORY

3640 Dark Sky Drive
Fort Davis, TX 79734
Voice: 432-426-4152
Fax: 432-426-4150

Marc N. Wetzel
wetzel@astro.as.utexas.edu
mcdonaldobservatory.org
Recorded message: 1-877-984-7827

MCDONALD OBSERVATORY STUDENT FIELD EXPERIENCE

Behavior Expectations

McDonald Observatory is located at 6,800 feet elevation atop Mt. Locke and Mt. Fowlkes in the heart of the Davis Mountains of West Texas. The high, remote location is ideal for astronomers to use delicate, sensitive equipment and large telescopes to do research because the air is thin and dry, and the mountaintops are far from city lights.

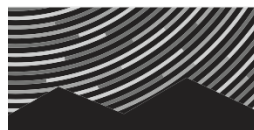
McDonald Observatory is an education facility as well as a research facility. We welcome students and teachers to explore our unique home in the high-altitude desert. Because of the rocks, cacti, steep inclines, and other potential safety hazards, please review the following behavior guidelines and requirements with your students and chaperones to help prepare everyone for a memorable, safe learning experience.

STANDARD OBSERVATORY REQUIREMENTS:

1. A *minimum* of 1 adult chaperone per 10 students is required.
2. The Gift Shop does not allow groups larger than 15 at a time.
3. *Always* remain with your chaperone during your visit. You should never touch equipment you see during your tour.
4. Absolutely no running or rough play is permitted. There are plenty of things indoors and outdoors that can cause injury if you are careless.
5. Students and chaperones must always stay on paved roads and paths.
6. Always follow instructions given by Observatory staff. They want you to be safe and enjoy your visit.
7. In case of emergency immediately notify Marc Wetzel or nearest Observatory staff member.
8. Persistent behavior problems endanger students and detract from the learning experience. Program leaders and teacher(s) are responsible for resolving these problems. If behavior problems continue, your group will be asked to leave without refund.
9. Groups will be responsible for any facility damage they cause.
10. Students' use of flash photography, laser pointers, or flashlights during nighttime programs is prohibited.

NAME TAGS:

Please ensure that each member of your group is wearing a name tag upon arrival to the Observatory and throughout the visit. Each tag should include the group member's name and school or group.



McDonald Observatory