## MORE ABOUT VIDEOCONFERENCES AT THESE SITES:

Request a videoconference program, or register for scheduled programs:
*connect2texas.net*

More information: *mcdonaldobservatory.org/lfmo*

Learn more about and request an on-site program:
*mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/visit*


Marc Wetzel, Education Coordinator

Frank N. Bash Visitors Center at McDonald Observatory
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fax: 432-426-4150

wetzel@astro.as.utexas.edu


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


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## *Did you know . . .*

In evaluations of our "Live ... From McDonald Observatory" program, 94% of teachers of grades 5-8 said that the video-conference session illustrated astronomy in ways not possible in their classroom.

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/

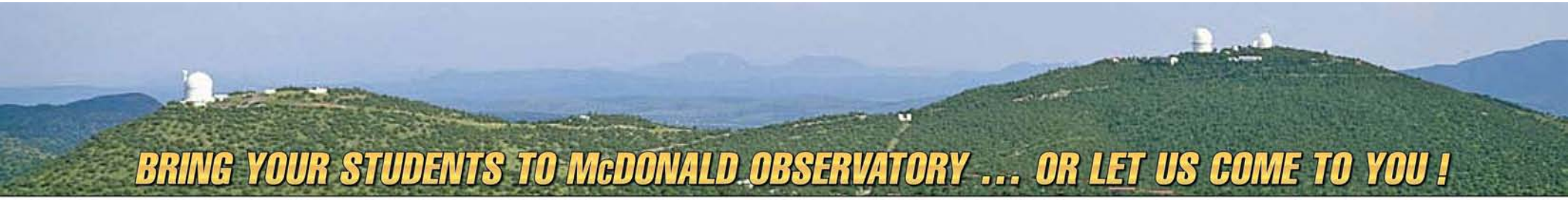
# STUDENT VISITS AND LIVE VIDEOCONFERENCES

## K-12 Astronomy Programs at

# McDONALD OBSERVATORY

McDONALD OBSERVATORY

The University of Texas at Austin • Fort Davis



# BRING YOUR STUDENTS TO McDONALD OBSERVATORY ... OR LET US COME TO YOU !

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 on-site Student Field Experience program and our "Live ... from McDonald Observatory" videoconference 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.



The kids truly enjoyed their visit. The facilitator kept my students focused and made them feel important and valued.

— Third grade teacher

Great Program! This is a great way to make the astronomy we learn in the classroom *real* to the students.

— Private school teacher

Words cannot express how enriching our learning experience was here. Students and teachers alike were turned on to astronomy. Your education staff is aware of our state standards and objectives that we focus on for our TAKS examination.

— Fifth grade teacher

## On-Site Student Field Experience Program

Choose the General or Enriched Programs listed below. Call Marc Wetzel to arrange the details for your students' field experience at McDonald Observatory. To learn details about and submit your online request for your students' on-site program, please visit **http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/teachers/visit.** Your group may join the Public Star Party (available on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only) for an additional $5 per student. For an additional fee, your students may join the Public Twilight Program and evening Star Party, available on Tuesday's, Friday's, and Saturday's only.

The Frank N. Bash Visitors Center features a full classroom equipped with activity materials and full control of three telescopes with special filters for viewing of the Sun, a 94-seat theater equipped with telescope remote control, an astronomy park with telescopes, and the Decoding Starlight exhibit hall.

### The General Program

In this two- to three-hour program, students explore the Decoding Starlight Exhibit with a grade-specific Student Exhibit Guide, and tour the Harlan J. Smith 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 the activities in 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 chart below.

| 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 |

## Live...from McDonald Observatory

Stay in your classroom and visit McDonald Observatory in our new distance learning program. Our videoconference programs are interactive science learning experiences that take you and your students on a virtual field trip to the Davis Mountains of west Texas. Videoconferences are 50-minute, fully interactive connections between one class (or student club) of up to 35 students and your McDonald Observatory facilitator. Versions for grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 are available.

The TEKS/TAKS aligned content of the videoconference program includes a virtual tour of McDonald Observatory, a hands-on activity, unique science demonstrations, and live views of our star the Sun with remote operated telescopes equipped with special video cameras and solar filters.

*More about videoconferences at these sites:*

*To request programs:* connect2texas.net

*For more information:* mcdonaldobservatory.org/lfmo

| **Live...from McDonald Observatory Pricing** | |
|---|---|
| 50 minute, single class connection $100 | View only connection $60 |

| On-Site Student Field Experience Pricing *(Minimum group size is 12 students)* | General | Enriched |
|---|---|---|
| Per student K-5 | $6 | $9 |
| Per student 6-12 | $7 | $10 |
| Per additional adult (beyond 1 free for every five students) | $6 | $6 |

*Prices subject to change*