

# AMATEUR OBSERVERS' SOCIETY INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY OBSERVING PROGRAM

## **Introduction**

When you go out at night to observe the sky, whether with the help of a telescope, a pair of binoculars, or simply using the unaided eye, you can enjoy many sights. However, sometimes this experience can be enriched if one has a specific list of objects to observe. This gives you a goal to try to achieve, as well as a sense of accomplishment afterwards, even if only a portion of the planned observing list for any single evening is completed. To enhance your observing experience as well as to help you learn more about the night sky and all of its wonders, the AOS has developed the **Beginners' Observing Program**.

No purchase of equipment is needed to participate in this program. Many activities involve the unaided eye, and if equipment is needed, the Club telescope or binoculars, as well as sky charts and lunar maps are available. In addition, more experienced club members will be happy to assist you in finding any sky object.

All of the observations and activities on this list can be done during the evening hours. Having a goal and a purpose ahead of you when you go out at night to observe the sky will increase your enjoyment as you learn more astronomy!

## **Certificate Award**

In order to qualify for an **AOS Beginner Observer Certificate** award, you need to keep a log of your observations. This will be simple to do, since an observation sheet is provided. As you make your observations, you simply fill in the necessary information, such as the name of the object, a brief description of its appearance, the instrument used (if any), and the location, date, and time. As you progress in filling out your log sheet, you will gain an increasing sense of accomplishment while you become a more skillful and experienced observer and telescope operator.

## **Let's Get Started!**

Don't hesitate to ask for assistance to complete this program. If possible, come down to Robert Moses State Park during observing nights to observe with others. You'll have a great time getting to know more AOS members while you complete the program. Good luck!



**AMATEUR OBSERVERS' SOCIETY**  
**INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY OBSERVING PROGRAM**  
**RECORDING CHARTS**

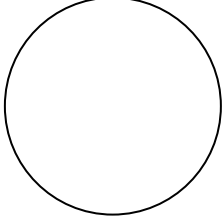
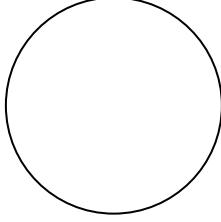
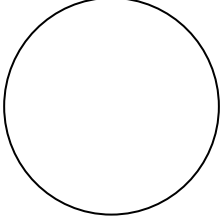
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**1. UNAIDED EYE OBJECTS**

**a. Constellations (unaided eye)**

Constellation _____          description _____ _____ date _____ time _____ location _____	Constellation _____          description _____ _____ date _____ time _____ location _____
Constellation _____          description _____ _____ date _____ time _____ location _____	Constellation _____          description _____ _____ date _____ time _____ location _____

**b. Whole Moon Observations (unaided eye)**

<p>1<sup>st</sup> Observation</p>  <p>date _____ time _____</p> <p>location _____</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Observation</p>  <p>date _____ time _____</p> <p>location _____</p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Observation</p>  <p>date _____ time _____</p> <p>location _____</p>
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**c. Lunar Maria (unaided eye or binoculars)**

Mare Name	date	time	location	equipment used
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**d. Bright Stars (unaided eye)**

Star Name	date	time	location
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

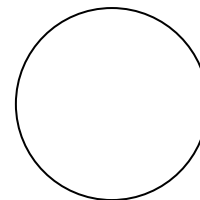
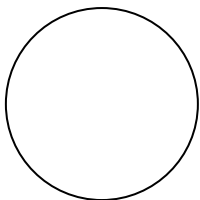
**2. BINOCULAR OBJECTS**

**a. Lunar Craters (binoculars or telescope)**

Crater Name	date	time	location	equipment used
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**b. Deep-Sky Objects (binoculars or telescope)**

Object Name and/or Messier Number	date	time	location	equipment used
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



**3. TELESCOPE OBJECTS AND SKILLS**

**a. Planets (at least one)**

Planet Name _____	Planet Name _____	Planet Name _____
date _____ time _____	date _____ time _____	date _____ time _____
location _____	location _____	location _____
equipment used _____	equipment used _____	equipment used _____

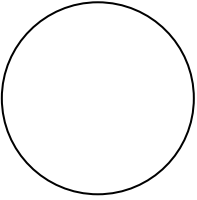
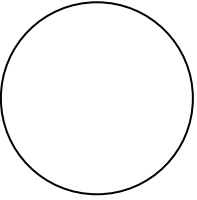
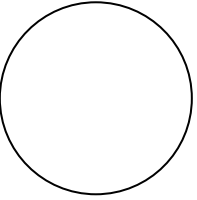
**b. Locating Stars in a telescope:**

Star Name	date	time	location	equipment used
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**c. Double Stars in a Telescope:**

Star	date	time	location	equipment used
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**d. Deep-sky Objects in a telescope:**

Object Name _____	Object Name _____	Object Name _____
		
Date _____ time _____	Date _____ time _____	Date _____ time _____
Location _____	Location _____	Location _____
Equipment used _____	Equipment used _____	Equipment used _____

**4. REACHING OUT**

Description of activity \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) with whom you interacted \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_