



AMATEUR ASTRONOMER

Join us at the Perth Observatory for an enriching volunteer experience as an Amateur Astronomer. You will have the unique opportunity to operate our telescopes during Night Sky Tours (NST) while engaging the public with fascinating insights into the cosmos. No prior telescope or astronomy knowledge is required; comprehensive training will be provided. If you have a passion for astronomy and engaging with, speaking to groups of people and working with a small team of other amateur astronomers, this can be the role for you.

Commitment:

- ☾+ Participate in at least two tours per month (each tour is approx. 3 hours in length).
- ☾+ Dedicate a minimum of 30 hours annually.
- ☾+ Maintain open communication with your team, especially if you are unable to attend a scheduled shift.

Responsibilities:

- ☾+ Set up the designated telescope before the commencement of the tour.
- ☾+ Guide how to observe celestial objects through the telescope.
- ☾+ Ensure safety protocols are followed during dome and telescope use.
- ☾+ Share basic astronomy concepts and information about observed objects.
- ☾+ Explain telescope operations and features such as mounts and star catalogues.
- ☾+ Engage with visitors by answering questions and fostering a welcoming environment.
- ☾+ Safely pack up equipment at the end of each tour.

Telescopes You'll Work With:

Initially, you will be trained to operate with the:

- ☾+ 14" Meade LX200-ACF (go to)
- ☾+ 16" Meade LX200 EMC (go to)

You will then be introduced and trained to operate with the:

- ☾+ 12.5" Calver (manual)
- ☾+ 30" Obsession (go to)
- ☾+ Esprit 120 ED Skywatcher on a Skywatcher AZ-E Q6 Mount (go to)
- ☾+ Celestron 9.25 HD on a Skywatcher AZ-EQ 6 mount (go to)

Finally, you will be introduced and trained to operate with the:

- ☾+ Grubb Astrograph (manual)
- ☾+ 11" Celestron CPC 1100 (go to)
- ☾+ 8" Celestron on a Pantograph mount (manual)





Note: “go to” telescopes operate on mounts that are computer-controlled, whilst “Manual” telescopes operate on mounts that are manually set up which are then driven by a motor. Additional telescopes for specific events and field nights.

- ☾+ 12" Meade LX200
- ☾+ 10" and 8" SkyWatcher Dobsonians (manual, field nights)
- ☾+ 10" SkyWatcher Newtonian (not regularly used)

Skills Needed:

- ☾+ Comfortable speaking to groups of approx. 10 people.
- ☾+ Basic knowledge of astronomy and our solar system.
- ☾+ Ability to climb ladders if necessary.
- ☾+ Ability to follow safety protocols to ensure telescope longevity.

Training:

- ☾+ Full comprehensive training over approximately 4 weeks.
- ☾+ Support and mentoring by certified Amateur Astronomers and NST Hosts.
- ☾+ Presentation Skills Training to confidently discuss telescope objects and astronomy topics.

Requirements:

- ☾+ Working With Children’s Check
- ☾+ Drivers Licence – there is no public transport to the Observatory

Inspire curiosity and wonder about the universe as an Amateur Astronomer at Perth Observatory. Your passion for astronomy and dedication to sharing knowledge will make a significant impact on our visitors' experience under the stars.

