

# Observing Certificate Program

The Observing Certificate Program has been designed for all amateur astronomers from novice to advanced. The program starts with the easier programs and progresses to the more advanced. It is intended as a teaching tool and is totally voluntary. Each section is done individually and at your own speed and with no monitoring. It is done on the honor system. If you wish, you can receive a certificate of completion at the end of each section. All you need do is submit your results to the [PAA Education Director](#). The results are in the form of a logbook entry with the following suggested entries for each object observed:

- your location
- date and time
- instrument used
- magnifications used
- general sky conditions
- as well as a **basic description and/or annotated sketch** for each of the objects that you observed

The program is a mixture of links to other astronomical association programs as indicated and copyrighted material used with permission. The sections can be done in any order and it is not required that all sections be done.

It is suggested that novices start with the “Exploring the Universe Program” from the RASC as it will introduce you to the basics of observing, get you familiar with the night sky and you will become familiar with your observing equipment.

Each section has its own introduction that will describe what the section covers and what is required to complete the section. This will assist you in deciding if you wish to use that section.

If you encounter any difficulties any member will be glad to assist you.