

Membership Application Form

For new memberships only.

Date: _____

Please check the class of membership desired and enclose a check or money order made payable to the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society for:

Regular Membership: \$20.00 (1 year) / \$35.00 (2 years) _____

Family Membership: \$25.00 (1 year) / \$45.00 (2 years) _____

Senior Family (65 & over): \$20.00 (1 year) / \$35.00 (2 years) _____

Students/Senior (65 & over): \$15.00 (1 year) / \$25.00 (2 years) _____

Additional Contribution: _____

(Contributions are tax-deductible.)

TOTAL: _____

Please fill out the information below as completely as possible. Private information **will not** be shared with anyone but authorized KAS members. **(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail*: _____

* Please supply an e-mail address since our newsletter is now sent out as an electronic PDF. The FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF files. It can be downloaded from www.adobe.com.

How did you hear about the KAS? TV Radio Newspaper

Internet School KAS Member Who? _____

Kalamazoo Nature Center Other _____

Mail To...

Kalamazoo Astronomical Society
c/o KAMSC
600 West Vine, Suite 400
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

✂ Cut Here...

Membership Benefits

- ✧ **Special programs** on a wide variety of astronomical subjects.
- ✧ **Workshops** on topics such as astrophotography and telescope construction.
- ✧ **Field trips** to museums, planetariums, observatories, and star parties.
- ✧ **Subscription discounts** for *Astronomy*, *Technology Today* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines.
- ✧ **Club Library** access during most general meetings.
- ✧ **Use** of KAS telescopes and facilities, upon completion of proper training courses.
- ✧ **Observing Sessions**, held monthly at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.
- ✧ **Free membership** in the Astronomical League.
- ✧ **Prime Focus**, the KAS monthly newsletter, and **Reflector**, the Astronomical League's quarterly newsletter.



Kalamazoo Astronomical Society

Looking Up Since 1936



Astronomy
for
You!

www.kasonline.org

General Meetings

Monthly on the First Friday

7:00 pm

Kalamazoo Area Mathematics &
Science Center (KAMSC)

600 W. Vine St.
Kalamazoo, MI

KAMSC is on the fourth floor of Old Central High School, which is located seven blocks south of Michigan Avenue on Westnedge Avenue. Parking is available behind Old Central or along Dutton Street. You must enter Old Central using the Dutton Street entrance. Elevator access is available. Please arrive before 7:10 pm, otherwise you may get locked out.

Most general meetings open with a presentation, followed by refreshments, and conclude with a short business meeting. Programs often feature guest speakers from amateur or professional astronomy.

Sometimes our meetings feature special themes, including "Gadget Night" in July, and "Astrophotography Night" in October. The "Perseid Potluck Picnic" replaces the August meeting, and in December we hold our annual meeting and Holiday Party.

Meeting day, time and location may vary, so please visit our website for the latest information.

Remote Telescopes

Our premiere installation is located at Arizona Sky Village, a dark-sky community located near Portal in southeastern Arizona. It is the result of a multi-year, ongoing fund raising campaign. Over \$100,000 was donated, mostly from contributions by generous KAS members.

The main telescope is a PlaneWave 20-inch Corrected Dall-Kirkham, with a Takahashi FSQ-106 refractor riding piggyback. Both employ full frame, high resolution CCD cameras with multiple color and narrowband filters. There is also a wide-field camera lens attached to an SBIG STF-8300 color CCD camera for constellation viewing. The array is mounted on a Software Bisque Paramount ME II robotic German equatorial mount.



The installation has many uses. Remote viewing sessions allow for year round public observing sessions, plus members and students are able to conduct research projects or search for comets, asteroids, and supernovae. The telescopes also makes it possible to take stunning images of the night sky captured from home using a computer and high-speed Internet connection.

Owl Observatory



Owl Observatory, dedicated in August of 1998, was made possible through the donations and in-kind support of members and many donors. It is used for educating the public in the science of astronomy and viewing the heavens. The observatory is located on the grounds of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, which offers reasonably dark skies, yet is located only six miles north of downtown Kalamazoo.



The heart of the observatory is a Meade 12-inch LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope. It is computer controlled, permitting quick, automatic access to thousands of stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. Accurate tracking for astrophotography is provided by an equatorial platform.

Public observing sessions are held at the observatory twice a month from April to October. At other times, KAS members (after training and certification) have the privilege of using the observatory for their observing programs.

History of the KAS

The Kalamazoo Astronomical Society, the oldest organization of its kind in Michigan, can trace its origins back to 1936. The association was formed by a group of Kalamazoo College students who wanted to continue learning astronomy after the end of a one semester course. To continue their study, the group founded the Kalamazoo Amateur Astronomical Association.

In 1968 the older members announced they no longer wanted to continue meeting, and that the future of the KAAA was in the hands of its younger members. A constitution was drafted for the operation of the revamped group, which was then called the Kalamazoo Amateur Astronomical Society.

The KAAS grew rapidly in the 1970's with the help from two astronomical events; a total solar eclipse on March 7, 1970 and the apparition of Comet Bennett. During this period, the club name was shortened to the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society.

A new growth period occurred in the 1990's thanks to several astronomical events; an annular eclipse and the collision of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter in 1994, plus Comet Hale-Bopp and the successful Mars Pathfinder mission in 1997. However, the secret of our success is the dedication of our membership. Today the KAS is the largest it has ever been - averaging over 200 members.