

JEFFERSON COLLEGE OBSERVATORY

Jefferson College has partnered with the St. Louis Astronomical Society to build an observatory on the Hillsboro campus!

If you and your family love stargazing, you will want to learn more about this exciting new project in Jefferson County.

Open to all ages!

AIM FOR THE STARS

Designed to appeal to community members of all ages, the "Aim for the Stars" events provide an overview of plans for the Jefferson College Observatory including a site tour, training on how to read a star map, library telescope and binocular training, a meteorite exhibit, live telescope viewing, laser guided constellation tours, and previews of upcoming astronomy events of interest. Each observation night will be held in-person at the observatory site depending on weather.

During each event, the dome and 16-inch telescope will be used for public viewing of planets and stars. The 1,800 sq-ft observatory patio will be available to those who want to bring their own telescopes and binoculars for family viewing.

2023 FALL SCHEDULE

AIM FOR THE STARS MONTHLY EVENTS*

Sunday, August 6
Sunday, September 3
Sunday, October 1
Sunday, November 5
Sunday, December 3

BONUS OCTOBER NIGHTS

Sunday, October 8
Sunday, October 15
Sunday, October 22
Sunday, October 29

Just Added!

SOLAR EVENT

Friday, October 6
Noon - 2 PM

SOLAR ECLIPSE EVENT

Saturday, October 14
Eclipse start time 10:31 AM
Eclipse end time 1:27 PM



LOCATION

The observatory site is located north of the Jefferson College Hillsboro campus (on Farm Road) near the Softball Field. It shares a paved parking lot, making the site especially attractive to astronomers from across the region due to its location outside the immediate St. Louis area and the associated light band.



DIRECTIONS

From St. Louis, travel South on Hwy 21 to the Jefferson College/Hayden Rd exit. Turn right onto Hayden Rd and then left onto Jefferson College Drive. Farm Road will be approximately 1/4 mile on the right.

1000 Viking Dr./Hillsboro, MO 63050
www.jeffco.edu/observatory



For additional information contact Associate Dean Maryanne Angliongto: 636-481-3318 or manglion@jeffco.edu

* All "Aim for the Stars" events will be held on Sunday evenings beginning at sunset, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, programs will be postponed to the following month.





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Hillsboro, MO



Jefferson College and the St. Louis Astronomical Society (SLAS) are working together to develop an astronomical observatory in phases. It will become the first public observatory in Jefferson County.

The observatory's purpose is to engage people of all ages in learning more about the science of astronomy and physics. As phase one advances, the observatory site is already being used by the College as a teaching and learning opportunity for students enrolled in undergraduate science and astronomy classes. Regular stargazing and solar viewing events for the public are also being held, as educators and students of K-12 schools are being encouraged to make use of the observatory for educational projects.



OBSERVATORY CONSTRUCTION PHASING

The observatory site will be developed in phases as funding is secured. Project funds will be raised from public donations, grants, and corporate sponsors. Implementation will be determined by available funding for each phase. Each stage of the project will be functional on its own, making the observatory useful from the outset.

FIRST PHASE *Now Open!*

- ★ An "observatory dome" owned by SLAS that houses a permanently mounted 16-inch telescope with a motorized dome.
- ★ A patio with telescope "pads" with electric hookup for the public and amateur astronomers to use their personal equipment.

FUTURE CONSTRUCTION

- ★ Wall designed to shield vehicle headlights
- ★ Additional buildings large enough to house telescopes ranging up to 30" in aperture and host 10-15 visitors at a time, while providing storage for portable astronomy equipment accessories. Telescopes will be permanently mounted in each building, with motorized, "roll-off" roofs to simplify operation and reduce wear/tear of equipment.
- ★ Restroom facilities

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATORY INFORMATION



Jefferson College Observatory website
www.jeffco.edu/observatory

St. Louis Astronomical Society
www.slasonline.org

Jefferson College Observatory Facebook
www.facebook.com/JCObservatory

DONATIONS OF ALL AMOUNTS NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTION

Although the Jefferson College Observatory is free to all visitors, donations of all amounts are needed to enable construction and site maintenance.

The Jefferson College Foundation is grateful for the generosity of **Holcim Cement** to provide the dome's concrete slab, along with an independent concrete pier to mount the telescope.

We are seeking additional partnerships to share in this vision, which may include corporate naming rights, legacy plaques, or other high-visibility prominence that promotes the partnership. Anyone interested in supporting the Observatory can make a tax-deductible donation through the Jefferson College Foundation, a separately incorporated 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, whose purpose is to increase resources, raise funds, and cultivate friends and partnerships to support Jefferson College and its mission.

There are a variety of ways to make an impact with a donation of any amount. To get involved please contact Blake Tilley, Executive Director of the Jefferson College Foundation: 636-481-3104 or email btalley@jeffco.edu.

