



TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION CHIRICAHUA ASTRONOMY COMPLEX (CAC) Telescope Training Program



Telescope Training

Telescope training is open to all TAAA members in good standing. The TAAA requires everyone who operates a club telescope at CAC to attend training and become certified on the procedures and operation requirements for each piece of equipment. In general, training includes observatory startup/shutdown procedures, telescope operation and an overview of CAC site rules and policies. Training usually takes about 2-3 hours depending on the type of telescope and number of students in the class. Classes are usually offered two or three times a year. Additional classes may be scheduled depending on demand. Three to five students per class with a minimum of three per class is preferred.

Training is offered for the following:

1. CAC site open/close training - Required if at CAC other than hosted weekends.
2. 14" Celestron SCT with Astro Physics go-to mount - Wallace E. Rogers Observatory (WRO)*
3. 18" Obsession Newtonian with Argo-Navis digital setting circles - Stinger Pad
4. 12" Meade SCT with go-to mount - Stinger Pad
5. 11" Celestron SCT with go-to mount - Stinger Pad
6. 9.25" Celestron SCT with go-to mount - Stinger Pad
7. 9" refractor with Astro Physics go-to mount - Reynolds Mitchell Observatory (RMO)*
8. 40" Newtonian with Nexus go-to - Reynolds Mitchell Observatory (RMO)*

Telescope Certification Policy

*NOTE - Once you complete the training class, you will need to go through a check-out process to become a certified operator. Training and certification are usually conducted on different days (WRO and RMO only). You may request a check-out certification session when you are ready. Once certified you may use the telescope anytime on your own after you make a reservation (except RMO 40" and RMO 9"). If you want to use the CAC site on your own (other than monthly hosted CAC weekends), you will also need to attend CAC site open/close training which takes about 45 minutes.

Telescope Availability Policy

Certified telescope operators may operate CAC telescopes with the following conditions:

The WRO 14" and the Stinger Pad telescopes (18", 12", 11" and 9.25") are available for certified operator use anytime they are available (reservation required).

The 9" and 40" RMO telescopes are not available for individual member use. They are only available for public outreach, special events and during hosted CAC weekends. However, members who are trained and certified to operate the RMO telescopes are welcome to volunteer as operators for any of the specific events.

Questions about CAC training policies, requirements and requests for training should be directed to the CAC Trainer, email address: cac-training@tucsonastronomy.org.