

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) _____
- Owl Observatory Fund:** _____

(Contributions to this fund 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.

Are you interested in attending the five part *Introduction to Amateur Astronomy* lecture series? Yes No
 If yes, which day and time are best for you? _____

- How did you hear about the KAS? TV Radio Newspaper
- Internet School KAS Member Who? _____
- Kalamazoo Nature Center Other _____

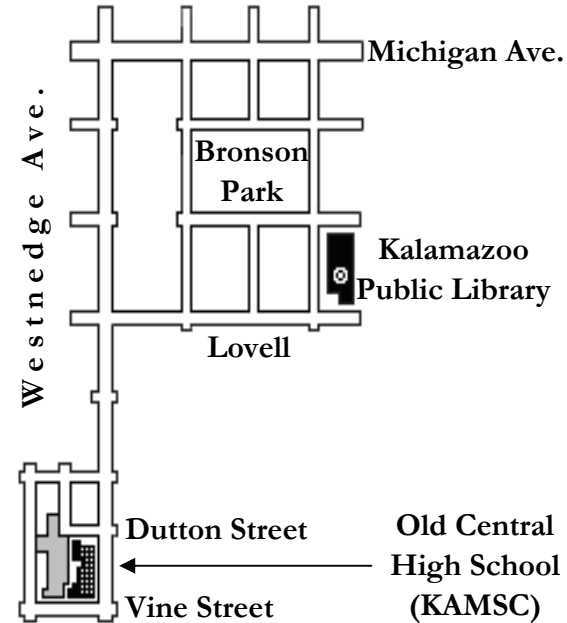
Mail To...

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

Meeting Location

The Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center (KAMSC) is the home for the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society for general meetings and special events.

KAMSC is located on the fourth floor of Old Central High School, 600 West Vine Street, seven blocks south of Michigan Avenue on Westnedge Avenue. Parking is available behind Old Central High School and enter KAMSC on the Dutton Street side of the building. Elevator access is available.



The KAS meets in KAMSC's Presentation Center, which can accommodate an audience of 170 participants. This lecture hall also has direct access to the internet and multiplex video capability.



Kalamazoo Astronomical Society
Looking Up Since 1936



Your
 Pathway
 to the
 Stars!

www.kasonline.org

✂ Cut Here...

General Meetings

The KAS meets on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm in the presentation center of the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center (KAMSC) located on the fourth floor of Old Central High School. Meeting days and times may vary, please visit our web site for the latest information.

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.



The Waxing Gibbous Moon as photographed through our 12" telescope in Owl Observatory.

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" 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.

Benefits of Membership

- ☆ 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 discount for *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines.
- ☆ Access to club library during general meetings.
- ☆ Access to KAS telescopes and facilities, upon completion of proper training courses.
- ☆ Monthly observing sessions at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.
- ☆ Membership in the Astronomical League.
- ☆ KAS monthly *Prime Focus* newsletter and the Astronomical League's quarterly newsletter the *Reflector*.



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.