RAO Booking Information

Please contact Jennifer Howse, Education Programs Manager at 403-931-2366 or email jhowse@phas.ucalgary.ca. to book a program or for more information.

School programs are $4 plus GST per participant. There is no charge for teachers or chaperons.

Fee payment – Payments are accepted on the date of the program with cash, debit, or credit. We can take pcard payments over the phone. If you wish to pay with a cheque, than after the program via email confirm the number of students in attendance. A Payment Information Statement will be issued and is payable by cheque to the University of Calgary and mailed to Physics and Astronomy SB605, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4.

The student to chaperon for grades six is 10 students per one chaperon. The student to chaperon for grade eight and nine is 20 students per one chaperon. We are flexible with these ratios.

Book programs at least two weeks in advance to ensure availability.

Once you register your class, we will send you an email confirmation of time, date and verify any special considerations.

Programs are scheduled for 3.5 to 4 hours per day session. For the evening session 2 hours.

Plan to arrive at the observatory 10 minutes before your scheduled program. If delayed please call 403-931-2366. Please do not arrive early as we may not have gate open for the bus.

To cancel or reschedule a program please contact us at least a week in advance of your program date. We can cancel on program date due to weather.

The programs are designed to accommodate 30 to students, however if you have a larger group please allow one month before booking to ensure we have the appropriate resources available. Our Interpretive Center classroom capacity is 100.

Lunch space is available both outdoors and indoors. Backpacks are permitted but the students will be expected to leave them in the Interpretive Centre when we tour the observatory. We do not sell food and the water is potable, so students are required to bring their own lunch food and water.

Ensure each student has a pen or pencil if they are to complete a project.
The Rothney Astrophysical Observatory
Rules of Conduct for School Programs

Please discuss the following rules of conduct with your students. Also, provide your chaperons with a copy these guidelines.

- The Rothney Astrophysical Observatory is a research facility operated by the University of Calgary. Students must be aware that the observatory is a working science lab and proper conduct is required to ensure their safety.

- Please divide your group into smaller sub-groups each with an adult supervisor, also ensure that these smaller groups stay together at all times.

- Do Not Touch anything unless there is a "Please Touch" sign. There are tools, chemicals and equipment on-site that are off-limits to students.

- Leave all coats, back packs, and bags in the Interpretative Center.

- Walk, Don't Run.

- Use Quiet, Indoor Voices.

- If there are astronomers at work, or another class in session, please do not disturb them.

- No Gum, Food or Drink in the observatory.

- Stay in your group and do not wander on the grounds, there are several scientific equipment installations on-site which are actively collecting data. This equipment is not to be disturbed.

- The RAO is host to several animals such as gophers, hawks, cows, etc. For your own protection, please do not approach or disturb any animals.

- Any visitor who shows repeated disregard for the above guidelines may be asked to leave.

- These rules help make everybody's visit an enjoyable experience and at the same time help protect visitors and the RAO’s facility.

- The well water at the observatory is not potable and not recommended for consumption. Please bring your own water for drinking.
The Rothney Astrophysical Observatory is located near Priddis, Alberta. Drive on hwy 22X to the hwy 22 interchange. Go south on hwy 22 for approximately 1.5 kilometres. The RAO is located on the east side of the hwy. Please drive through the gate and up to the parking lot where you will be met by a staff member.