

# Getting Started - Observe with MicroObservatory!

You'll use the "Observing With NASA" online interface to control the telescopes, which is linked at this url:  
<http://mo-www.harvard.edu/OWN/>

## **1. Request an image (or many!) from the MicroObservatory telescopes**

- Click on the link "Control Telescope" on the upper left of the screen
- An array of thumbnail images of objects appear under 3 categories of Solar System, Stars & Nebulae, and Galaxies & Beyond
- Some objects appear faded and states "Not up tonight," meaning the object is not available to be photographed
- Many of the objects appear clear and have a button called "Observe"
- Prior to selecting your target, you can click on the thumbnail to see a detailed view
- When ready, click on the "Observe" button and you will be taken to a page called "Adjust Your Telescope Settings"
- When only one option is offered for a setting, it is the best default for that object and the radio button should be clicked
- When more than one option is available, such as Exposure Time, select a setting you believe will work and click the radio button
  - o If a red flag appears saying something like "Image may be under or overexposed," choose another setting until you get a green flag, indicating the setting is optimal
  - o When multiple filters is an option, choose it and you will receive 3 images in the RGB colors
- When done with the settings, click on the button "Continue" in the lower right corner
- Enter your contact information and click "Submit"
- Any image requested today will be taken tonight and emailed to you tomorrow, so hope for clear skies

You might also want to read the "About MicroObservatory" section of that website to get background on how the telescope system works.

## **2. Visit the MicroObservatory directory of recently taken images to explore what the images taken by others look like and to find one you like, at this url:**

<http://mo-www.harvard.edu/jsp/servlet/MO.ID.ImageDirectory>

When you go to this link be sure to open up the browser window wide so you see the long list of images taken over the last 2 weeks.

## **3. Open the image processing software and run it on your computer**

- Download the Legacy Software from <http://mo-www.cfa.harvard.edu/OWN/softwareArchive.html>, then double click the Windows version if you have a PC or the one for Mac
- Double-click on the folder named *MicroObservatoryImageWindows2.3* on the desktop
- Double-click on the file "run MS-DOS Batch File 1KB"
- Under the link "Tools & Training," you can download the PDF file called MicroObservatory Image 2.3 Manual
- Begin following the index of command functions

## **4. Use your finished images in a variety of ways**

- For information on what you can do with your MicroObservatory images once you've taken, downloaded and processed them, click on "Projects & Activities" for some great ideas
- Other options, along with general information on astronomy and astronomical events, are available under the link "News & Views"