

# McDonald Observatory and Department of Astronomy Board of Visitors

## Introduction

The University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory and Department of Astronomy Board of Visitors (BOV) is a dedicated supporters' group for the Texas Astronomy Program. Its membership includes entrepreneurs, educators, attorneys, scientists, artists, architects, and engineers from across Texas and the United States.

Over the years, the BOV has played a vital role in advancing Texas astronomy—supporting endowed chairs, professorships, and fellowships; assisting with private fundraising for major facilities such as the Hobby–Eberly Telescope and the Frank N. Bash Visitors Center; and providing annual discretionary funding for the Observatory Director and Department Chair.

## Mission

The mission of the Board of Visitors is to further the research and educational objectives of McDonald Observatory and the Department of Astronomy, while strengthening their long-standing partnership. The BOV supports these goals through advocacy, public engagement, and philanthropic leadership, with an emphasis on promoting the welfare and visibility of astronomy.

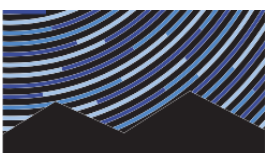
## Meetings

The BOV typically meets **twice each year**:

- A **Winter Meeting** held in Austin (February or March)
- A **Summer Meeting** held at McDonald Observatory in West Texas (July)

Meeting costs are covered through registration fees paid by attending members. These gatherings provide members with in-depth updates on scientific achievements, strategic priorities, and institutional initiatives, while also offering opportunities to participate in BOV governance and planning for the year ahead.

Examples of recent meeting programs can be found online at [sites.utexas.edu/bov/meetings](https://sites.utexas.edu/bov/meetings)



McDonald Observatory  
The University of Texas at Austin



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