

Our Place on Earth



**4249 Camp Coffman Road
Cranberry, Pennsylvania 16319**



The 25 acre Oil Region Astronomy Learning Center is a highly versatile facility that encompasses the Bruce M. Bedow Memorial Observatory, the David L. Jones Activity Building and an observing field. It is a culmination of many years of hard work by ORAS members and other volunteers and was made possible by the generosity of the surrounding communities. We built the Oil Region Astronomy Learning Center to further astronomy education for ORAS members and for the general public.

The spacious observing field is ideal for overnight stays. Visitors may bring their own telescopes and equipment, set them up in the field and enjoy observing and imaging under the dark skies.



The observatory features a roll-off roof, giving observers a wide, unobstructed view of the sky. Our 30-inch f/3 Newtonian telescope is one of the largest publicly-accessible telescopes in western Pennsylvania. Rounding out the equipment is a Meade 14-inch LX200GPS and a 14-inch Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain. Together, these three instruments provide a wide variety of capabilities for visual observing and for imaging.



Members conduct educational activities in the David L. Jones Activity Building. The classroom can be used for astronomy education sessions to augment the hands-on astronomy activities performed at the observatory. The classroom enables ORALC to accommodate student and adult groups for field trips, community presentations, and other activities. Also located here are a kitchen, modern restroom and a shower. Wi-fi is available. Power pedestals are provided on the observing field to keep batteries charged. The entire site is accessible to physically-challenged visitors. See more on the **Observatory** page at www.oras.org.

Star Parties

A "star party" is a great opportunity to experience a guided tour of the night sky. ORAS members conduct these events and serve as your tour guides. A star party experience typically begins near dusk, when visitors gather at ORALC. An ORAS member may begin the event by making a presentation in the classroom. From there, it's up the hill to the observatory for an evening of amazing views through the telescopes. Star parties are family-friendly. No astronomy experience is necessary. No equipment is necessary. Simply bring



your curiosity and your questions. Stay with us for an hour or stay for the evening. There is no admission fee. See the **Events and Outreach** page on our website for schedules. www.oras.org

Private Events

Astronomy themed events are unique and memorable. We can host field trips for students, scouts, clubs, youth organizations and even birthday parties. Email an inquiry to info@oras.org for information.