



Mt. Lion Observatory at Fort Roberdeau Group Rental Guidelines by Jim Krug, Observatory Director

A. Scope and Safety

The Mt. Lion Observatory is located behind Fort Roberdeau, and consists of a structure enclosing telescopes, as well as two leveled observing pads outside of the building. Paved parking is located beside the Observatory, and users may drive their vehicles up to the site for ease of transporting equipment. The Observatory is located on the Fort Roberdeau Historic Site, is part of Fort (and County) property, and subject to all rules and regulations governing the Historic Site. As the Observatory is located in a remote, dark sky area, users should bring cell phones with them in case of emergency.



B. Stewardship

Be mindful that the Mt. Lion Observatory- though modern- is part of an important historical cultural site. Guests are reminded to "leave no trace", and understand that private homes are located close to the site. As evening observing may extend beyond normal bedtimes of nearby residents, loud noises and other disturbances are not encouraged. Help us to maintain quality relationships with our neighbors!

C. Private Group Rentals



Fort Roberdeau welcomes groups to the Mt. Lion Observatory! The following pricing applies to group rentals, defined as a community organization or meeting of (5) or more individuals:

SECURITY DEPOSIT- Refundable to group if there are no damages at conclusion of rental	\$50.00, refundable
(1 st) Evening rental of facility, use of telescope piers, outside platforms, and tool/laptop cart	\$70.00
Guided use of Observatory telescopes and sky tour, hosted by Approved Operator	\$50.00/night payment to Observatory Host
Moving group rental date in event of inclement or cloudy weather forecast	FREE, provided Fort has no scheduling conflicts on preferred date of reschedule, and an Observatory Host is available
(Multi) evening rental of facility, and ability to lock personal equipment in Observatory over night	+\$30.00 additional per night, i.e. a 3-night rental would total \$280.00 (+ security deposit)

D. Individual Rentals

The following pricing applies to individual rentals, defined as (4) or less guests per evening, not affiliated with a community organization.

SECURITY DEPOSIT- Refundable to group if there are no damages at conclusion of rental	\$50.00, refundable
(1 st) evening rental of facility, use of telescope piers, outside platforms, and tool/laptop cart	\$50.00
Guided use of Observatory telescopes and sky tour, hosted by Approved Operator	\$30.00/night payment to Observatory Host
Moving individual rental date in event of inclement or cloudy weather forecast	FREE, provided Fort has no scheduling conflicts on preferred date of reschedule, and an Observatory Host is available
(Multi) evening rental of facility, and ability to lock personal equipment in Observatory over night	+\$20.00 additional per night, i.e. a 3-night rental would total \$180.00 (+ security deposit)





Note: Fort Roberdeau is NOT responsible for replacement costs to lost, stolen, or damaged equipment locked in the Observatory over night.

E. Cancellation Policy

Due to periods of inclement weather in Central Pennsylvania, groups or individuals may postpone their Observatory reservations if quality seeing is not possible on their original date(s). The Fort will work with groups for an evening of quality observation!

F. Observatory Hosts

Use of the Mt. Lion Observatory for individual or group outings requires the presence of a Fort Observatory Host. Individuals or groups booking the facility should make arrangement with an operator no later than two weeks prior to the group's scheduled event. Payment (\$50.00/night = group; \$30.00/night = individual) is required at the time of reservation.

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Mr. Eric Hilbert <i>Member, Starlight Astronomy Club of Altoona</i>	ehilbert@outdrs.net (814)932-7468

G. Contact Information

Observatory Booking Requests	Fort Roberdeau Historic Site 383 Roberdeau Road Altoona, PA 16601 (814)946-0048
Additional Information	Mr. Glenn Nelson, <i>Fort Roberdeau Director</i> gnelson@blairco.org (814)946-0048 (814)330-7723

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