

## 2023 Hours of Operation

### Science Center and Galaxy Gift Shop

Guided bus tours are available at regular intervals on all open days.  
Call or visit our online store for available times. 304-456-2150

#### Fall/Winter Hours:

Jan 2–May 26; Sept 7–Dec 31

Open Thurs–Mon; 9:30–5:30

Closed Tues/Wed

#### Summer Hours:

May 27–Sept 4

Open daily; 9:30–6:00

[shop.greenbankobservatory.org](http://shop.greenbankobservatory.org)

### Starlight Café

Pickup available! Call ahead: 304-456-2361

#### Fall/Winter Hours:

Jan 2–May 26; Sept 7–Dec 31

Open Thurs–Mon; 10:30–5:30

Last hot food order by 5 PM

Closed Tues/Wed

#### Summer Hours:

May 27–Sept 4

Open daily; 10:30–6:30

Last hot food order by 6 PM

[greenbankobservatory.org/cafe/](http://greenbankobservatory.org/cafe/)

### Holiday Closures:

4/7 for Spring Holiday

11/21–24 for Thanksgiving Holiday

12/24–27 for Winter Break

1/1/2024 for New Year's Day

### Public Admission & Tour Rates

Admission to the Science Center and Exhibit Hall ————— Free!

Presentation and guided bus tour (about one hour) — \$10/pp (Ages 6+)

Presentation without bus tour (30 minutes) ————— \$5/pp (Ages 6+)

Children 5 and under ————— Free!

Veterans & Active Service Members ————— Free!

[greenbankobservatory.org/education/](http://greenbankobservatory.org/education/)

### Be a part of our Science!

Making a gift to the Observatory supports our daily operation and mission, including our Education and Public Outreach program, which reaches nearly 10,000 students annually. Your donations and memberships can be made “in honor of” or “in memory of” and are wonderful gifts for any science lover!

Our Members get special discounts.

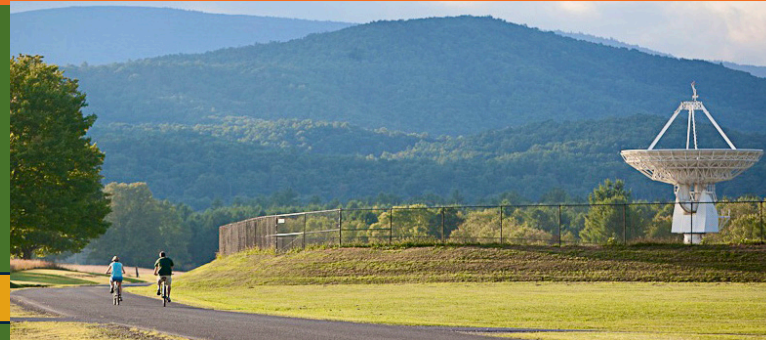
[greenbankobservatory.org/engage/](http://greenbankobservatory.org/engage/)

### HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Visit our website & social media for updates

[f](#) [@](#) [p](#) [@](#) GreenBankObservatory

[t](#) [@](#) GreenBankObserv



### Visit Green Bank Observatory

Green Bank Observatory (GBO) is home to the world's largest fully-steerable radio telescope, the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT). Astronomers from all over the planet use the GBT to investigate everything from the properties of near-earth asteroids to the environments surrounding super-massive black holes. Breakthrough Listen, the most comprehensive campaign to search for techno-signatures from other civilizations in the Universe, is also a regular project on the GBT!

GBO is truly a high-tech village. Skilled engineers, technicians, computer scientists, machinists, and mechanics ensure that the GBT always functions at the top of its capabilities. We cordially invite you to visit, take a tour, and discover more!

Want to go deeper? Try one of our behind-the-scenes tours.

Sign up for our newsletter to get timely updates.

[greenbankobservatory.org/subscribe/](http://greenbankobservatory.org/subscribe/)

Green Bank Observatory  
P.O. Box 2  
155 Observatory Road  
Green Bank, WV 24944



GREEN BANK OBSERVATORY is supported by the National Science Foundation and is operated by Associated Universities, Inc. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Cover photo: “Orion Over Green Bank ” by David Green  
[dave-has-a-camera.com](http://dave-has-a-camera.com)

## Getting Here is Half the Fun!



At the heart of the Seneca Skyway  
[wvtourism.com/seneca-skyway](http://wvtourism.com/seneca-skyway)

### Welcome to the Quiet Zone!

Green Bank Observatory is protected by the National Radio Quiet Zone, a 13,000 square mile area designated in 1958 by the Federal Communications Commission to minimize the impact of radio interference on scientific research.

Upon arrival at the Observatory, please put your electronic devices into airplane mode (this helps protect our observations). You may take photos around the Science Center and at the Observation Deck. Going on a tour or a hike? Please power off your electronics completely or leave them in your vehicle when heading behind the gates.

Film cameras can be used to photograph throughout the site, including instant cameras and disposable film cameras.

Share your photos with us!

Tag: @GreenBankObservatory #GreenBankTelescope #GBT #NRQZ

Green Bank Observatory  
155 Observatory Road, P.O. Box 2, Green Bank, WV 24944  
304-456-2150



2023  
GREEN BANK  
SCIENCE CENTER

Exploring the  
Radio Universe



Visit Us Today!

304-456-2150  
[greenbankobservatory.org](http://greenbankobservatory.org)



# So Much To Do!

For more details and a complete list of programs and events, please visit:

[greenbankobservatory.org/visit/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/visit/)

## Take a Tour — 1 hour, \$10/pp

Explore the fascinating world of radio astronomy! The tour highlights groundbreaking instruments and discoveries from the 1930s to today and offers a close-up view of one of the world's largest telescopes, the GBT.

Explore our exhibit hall and enjoy a dynamic presentation with an introductory video and science demonstrations. Then climb aboard our radio-quiet bus for a behind-the-gates tour of the grounds and an up-close view of our telescopes. This family-friendly tour is our most popular offering.

Purchase tickets in advance through our online store or on-site as availability allows.

[shop.greenbankobservatory.org](https://shop.greenbankobservatory.org)

## Visit the Exhibit Hall — Free!

What IS radio astronomy? What can it teach us about the Universe? Explore these and other questions with our interactive exhibits and historical displays.

## Shop for Souvenirs and Gifts

The Galaxy Gift Shop offers apparel, collectibles, and the best variety of educational toys around. Indulge your inner scientist! Can't make it for a visit? Shop from home on our online store.

[shop.greenbankobservatory.org](https://shop.greenbankobservatory.org)

## Grab a Bite

Dine at our award-winning Starlight Café and enjoy the scenic view! Our menu includes a selection of fresh foods and snacks with generous portions and affordable prices.

[greenbankobservatory.org/cafe/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/cafe/)

## Organized Group Tours

Motor coach groups are welcome. Tours can be scheduled any day of the week. We recommend two hours for a full visit. Stay for lunch and take advantage of our special menu and pricing for groups of 20 or more.

## Explore On Your Own — Free!

Take a self-guided tour or hike or bike one of our many trails. The grounds are open to the public every day from dawn to dusk. Find maps at the Science Center entrance and on our website.

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

See our online events calendar for details and availability.

[greenbankobservatory.org/events/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/events/)

### Star Parties — Free!

GBO staff will treat you to views of the night sky through optical telescopes! Scheduled monthly.

### Family Science Labs — Free!

Get your family started in science! Kids will love our fun-filled hands-on science experiments. Ages 4–9. Check our events calendar.

### Star Labs — 45 minutes, \$5/pp

Crawl into our planetarium balloon for a fascinating night sky tour! See the events calendar. Space is limited. Reservations recommended.



## BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

Advance registration and background check required. See website for available dates.

[shop.greenbankobservatory.org](https://shop.greenbankobservatory.org)

### SETI Tours — 2.5 hours, \$40/pp

Celebrate Green Bank's historic role in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence! We begin where it all started, in the control room of the 85-ft Telescope used by Frank Drake in the original search, "Project Ozma." From there, enjoy rare admittance to the 140-foot telescope, where Jill Tarter's Project Phoenix took place, and then on to restricted GBT access points. The tour concludes in a conversation with a staff astronomer about the future of SETI and the role of the GBT in the Breakthrough Listen project.

### High Tech Tours — 1.5 hours, \$25/pp

Join a conversation with an Observatory engineer as they pull back the curtain on our labs, telescope receivers, and the GBT control room. See what makes Green Bank Observatory one of the world's leading radio telescope facilities.



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS & FIELD TRIPS

[greenbankobservatory.org/education/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/education/)

### Field Trips

Organized educational groups may schedule tours, activities, day-trips, and overnight field trips. All programs are free, but there are costs associated with room and board for overnight stays. See a full list of approved groups online.

### Radio Astronomer for a Day

Overnight students experience science first-hand by completing research projects with a real radio telescope. A trip to the Observatory might just inspire your students to join the next generation of scientists and engineers!

### Scouting Trips

Tour reservations are free for organized scout groups, but advance arrangements are required. For overnight stays and badge events, see dates on our online events calendar. Day trips can be scheduled any day of the week.

### Virtual Visits

Can't make it to Green Bank? Join us virtually! We offer tours, field trips, live stream events, and more.

### We'll come to you!

West Virginia educators, formal and informal, can request a college ambassador from our West Virginia Science Public Outreach Team (WV SPOT) to visit their school or group and deliver standards-based presentations and hands-on activities.

Virtual presentations are available by request for all educators, both in West Virginia and beyond.

[wvspot.org](https://wvspot.org)

## FEATURED EVENTS

Green Bank Observatory hosts a variety of special events throughout the year. See our online events calendar for more details and our most up-to-date offerings.

[greenbankobservatory.org/events/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/events/)

### Drake Lecture

Awarded each year in recognition of contributions to advancing human knowledge and creativity in the scientific realm.

[greenbankobservatory.org/drake-lecture/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/drake-lecture/)

### Green Bank Star Quest

The nation's largest optical and radio star party!

[greenbankstarquest.org](https://greenbankstarquest.org)

### Space Race Rumpus

Join us for a weekend-long family-friendly cycling festival!

[spaceracerumpus.org](https://spaceracerumpus.org)

### Garth Newel Emerging Artist Showcase

Music comes to the Observatory from the Garth Newel Music Center in Warm Springs, Virginia.

[garthnewel.org](https://garthnewel.org)

### Family Science Day & Open House

Something fun for everyone! A free day filled with hands-on activities, site tours, and more!

### Turkey Trot

Burn off the Thanksgiving feast at the 15th annual Turkey Trot run/walk.

## PLEASE NOTE

Dates and offerings may change at any time and without notice. We highly recommend calling ahead (304-456-2150) or checking our website for the most up-to-date information before traveling.

Advance reservations are required for groups, field trips, special tours, and some events. Space is limited for many activities.

If local community levels of COVID-19 reported by the CDC are high, masks will be required for all staff and visitors indoors and on buses.

Find schedule, pricing, policies, and in-depth activity information online.

[greenbankobservatory.org/visit/](https://greenbankobservatory.org/visit/)

Email [visit@gbobservatory.org](mailto:visit@gbobservatory.org) for questions and reservation information.