If you are interested in volunteering with the Friends of the DAO please contact us by phone or on the website. We would be happy to have you join our lively group of volunteers.

Here are some areas that may interest you:

- Graphic Design
- Marketing/Media
- IT - Hardware and Software/ Audio/Visual
- School Programming - Development and Tours
- Public Programming - Development and Tours
- Virtual Reality
- Gift Shop Merchandising/ Management
- Planetarium Programming - Development and Presentations
- Fund Raising/Grant Writing

The Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory inspires visitors of all ages by expanding their understanding of their place in the universe, and making Canada’s historic Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and the Centre of the Universe sites of learning, creativity, and community for all.
MEMBERSHIPS
WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE DAO
Access to the stars and support of science education

The Friends of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory Society (FDAOS) is a charitable, community-based organization dedicated to astronomy and science education. We organize and conduct a variety of tours for the community, including school tours of the observatory, and on-line visits with astronomers for school classes across Canada.

We also feature Saturday night open houses (“Star Parties”) at the observatory, a 101 year old tradition. Our primary objective is for people to appreciate and understand the role astronomy plays in our society. Our operating budget comes from grants, the support of local businesses, and donations from individuals.

CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE
The Centre of the Universe visitors centre was built in 2001 to provide the public greater access to the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory and education about the work of local and Canadian astronomers. The display area includes historic artifacts from the DAO including the original mirror, Virtual Reality exploration, and information about more current discoveries. Visitors may also receive a guided tour of the night sky in our digital planetarium.

The Friends of the DAO is gradually working to update and improve exhibits. We’ve added slideshow displays to the Plaskett dome, and have been replacing older computer equipment with touchscreen powered display systems allowing visitors to select content. We also bought a new Planetarium system that includes new programming and updated software.

DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY
The Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO) has been a working observatory and has hosted regular public visits and school tours since it opened in 1918. It is the oldest Canadian observatory still in existence and therefore offers visitors a chance to reflect on both the history and future of astronomy and its place in our culture. Visitors on Saturday nights can tour the 1.8-m Plaskett Telescope and see the telescope create images of galaxies and other objects in real time.

SUPPORT ASTRONOMY AND SCIENCE EDUCATION. JOIN US!
Members of the Friends of the DAO Society have been working since 2014 to provide astronomy and science education to the Centre of the Universe Visitors Centre and the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the National Research Council and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. We are a volunteer-run organization and your membership and donations help us to offer tours to schools, community groups and others.

We thank you for supporting the organization and welcome your active involvement!

centreoftheuniverse.org/membership

PERKS AND BENEFIT LEVELS

ADULT
Quarterly e-newsletter
Member-only events
Advance notice of events
Advance tickets to events
10% Gift Shop discount
Networking opportunities
Voting Rights
Partner business discounts

JUNIOR
Star Party stamp card
Stargazer Backpack
Birthday parties discount
Includes all adult benefits, excluding voting rights

Affinity, Infinity, and Corporate levels will receive tax receipts for the value of the donation above the benefits included.
Charitable Registration number is: 818572968RR0001

Affinity memberships
All adult and Junior Astronomer membership benefits.
Guaranteed monthly Saturday night passes for family or 4 persons.

$20 – ADULT
includes all Adult perks

$10 – JUNIOR ASTRONOMER
For members 7-18 years old
includes all Junior perks

$15 – STUDENT / SENIORS
includes all Adult perks

$35 – FAMILY
2 adults
3 children (max)
includes all Adult & Junior perks

$100 – RED DWARF
includes all Adult perks

$250 – YELLOW DWARF
includes all Adult perks

$500 – BLUE SUPER GIANT
includes all Adult perks

$1,000 INFINITY MEMBERSHIP
All adult and Junior Astronomer membership benefits. Guaranteed monthly Saturday night passes for family or 4 persons.

$500 – $5,000 CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP
Recognition on the Centre of the Universe website