

Bangalore Astronomical Society

Certification Program in “Visual Observation”

Bangalore Astronomical Society proudly announces its first certification program in visual observation to appreciate the amateur astronomers for their interest in visual observations.

Showcase your observation skills and experience in using telescopes to amateur astronomers, friends and family. These certifications are designed so that you have a goal to achieve in observation. You will get a certificate for your achievement & a tag line for your email signature & a soft copy badge for display

“Messier Catalog Visual Observer” Certification

Messier Catalog has list of 110 objects designated as “M <number>” consisting of open clusters, globular clusters, galaxies and nebulae. An amateur astronomer with a basic telescope can observe most / all of these objects from a good sky conditions.

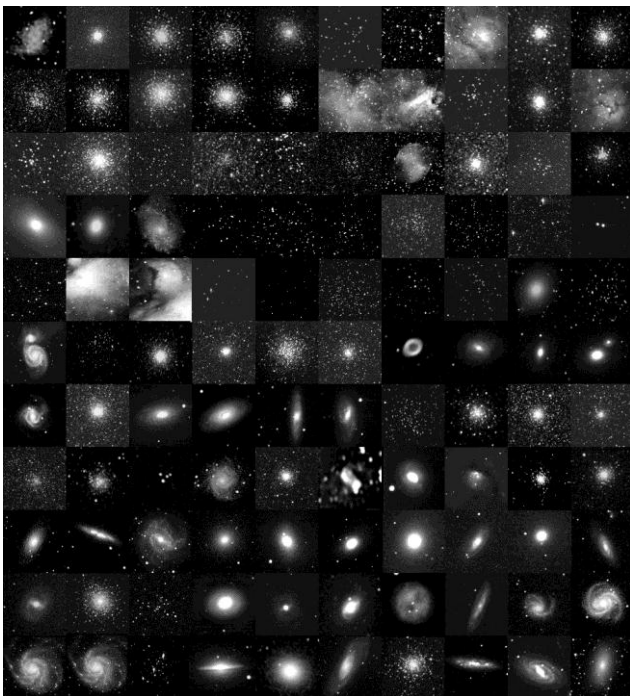
Level 1 Certificate:

Visual observer who has observed at least 55 Messier objects are recognised as level 1 observer.

Level 2 Certificate:

Visual observer who has observed all 110 Messier objects are recognised as level 2 observer.

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Terms and Conditions

- Observer should not use any electronic (GoTo/computerized telescopes, push to devices, etc.) support in pointing to the Messier object
- Observer has to manually identify and point the optical instrument.
- Maintain the log for every observation. The log should contain all the necessary information* check the format specified below.
- **Level 1 Certification ONLY:** Observer has observed at least 55 Messier objects, such that they include at least four objects from each of this category (Galaxy, Open cluster, Globular cluster, Nebula)
- **Level 2 Certification:** Observer has observed all 110 Messier Objects.
- Observations should be done on or after 21st Jan 2013, previous observations will not be considered.

Certification Steps:

- Observer has to be a valid BAS member at the time of submission.
- Certification Fee
 - Level 1 – FREE
 - Level 2 – FREE
- Submit your observation log either in hard copy (or Scan copy shared in Google Docs or any other shared folders) to following address.

Naveen Nanjundappa
House #3, First Floor,
18th “A” Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar,
Hebbal Kempapura, Bengaluru,
Pincode: 560024. Mobile : 9980505003.
Email: info@bas.org.in

References:

Messier Objects Collection:

<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap990318.html>

Magnitude 7 star atlas.

http://www.cloudynights.com/item.php?item_id=1052

Software:

Stellarium : <http://www.stellarium.org/>

KStars: <http://edu.kde.org/kstars/>

Celestia: <http://celestia.en.softonic.com/>

For more information contact us today:

Call: 9980505003

E-mail: info@bas.org.in

Website: <http://www.bas.org.in>

Information in this document is correct at the time of print, but may be subject to change.
For the most up-to-date information call or check our website.
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Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When can I apply for this certification?**

You can apply for the certification any time after you satisfy the level 1 or level 2 criteria.
- 2. Do I have to be a member to be certified?**

Yes, you should be a valid member at the time of submission.
- 3. Will the certification status be valid if my membership is not renewed?**

Yes, you can use the certificate/badge even after your membership expires.
- 4. Why is the certification free?**

This certification program is introduced by BAS to encourage our members in visual observations. BAS intension is to appreciate and encourage members with observational achievements. Hence we have made this FREE for BAS members.
- 5. I don't have any telescope how can BAS help me?**

BAS has a Telescope library which contains 6inch and 8 inch telescopes which you can rent. We also encourage you to network with other BAS members and share the telescopes.
- 6. What kind of telescope is needed for me?**

For level 1 certification, you can use a good binocular 10X50 or 15X70 or 70-90mm refractor telescopes or 4-6 inch reflector
For level 2 certification, a 6 inch telescope would be sufficient.
- 7. Will I get any support or help in learning how to point to messier objects from BAS?**

You can join the observation session and star party organised by BAS. We also strongly recommend you to work with other members who has telescope and learn by interacting with them. You can write to b-a-s google groups if you have any questions and our members will respond and help as required.
Another best way is to volunteer for BAS activities and learn during the events.
- 8. Are there any restrictions on which equipment to use?**

You can any equipment telescope or binocular. No goto/computerized telescopes, push to devices, analogy setting circles/electronic pointing aid.
- 9. Can I observe from any location?**

Yes, BAS has members across the globe, so you can be observing from any location on earth. Certification shall be issued after verification is complete.
- 10. What if I take help of another person or device in pointing?**

We will encourage you to do it yourself; this certification is for your observing experience. If you have trouble identifying object try another day. If someone else point the object and you see it in the telescope/binocular then such objects shouldn't be counted in your records. Such applications shall be rejected if noticed.
- 11. How will BAS know if I have used support for point?**

We trust that our members when claim for certification shall be truthful in their act. We want our members to use this as an opportunity to learn and build the observation skills. Beyond doubt we will know if the person has pointed to it or not when there is a discussion with the submitter during verification of logs.
- 12. My question is not listed here, whom do I contact?**

Please feel free to write to us, our email id info@bas.org.in