

# Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program

## Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program Coordinator:

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## Introduction

Welcome to the Astronomical League's Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program. The Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program is a list of sixty selected non-Messier objects, and picks up where the Binocular Messier Observing Program leaves off. The purpose of the Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program is not to put your observing skills to the test by including the toughest objects observable with binoculars, but to allow you to observe and enjoy sixty more of the most beautiful objects in the heavens: objects other than those discovered by Charles Messier.

Just because the Deep Sky Observing Program comes after the Binocular Messier Observing Program, doesn't mean you have to do your Messier observations before your Deep Sky observations. However, it is recommended that you get your Binocular Messier Certification first, before the Deep Sky Certification since, let's face it, Messier got most of the good (easy) objects. Even though the sixty objects in the Deep Sky Observing Program are among the best objects for small binoculars, it doesn't mean that they are all easy. For some of the objects, you will have to go to a good dark sky site, on a clear night with good seeing, and then observe those objects at the meridian for best results. But luckily this is easy to do with binoculars since they are so portable. All objects in the Deep Sky Observing Program were observed with 7X50 Orion Explorer binoculars

## Quick View of Requirements

### Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program

Uses Eyes	
Uses Binoculars	Yes
Uses Telescopes	
Must be an AL Member	Yes
Date Deadline for Submission	
Minimum Instrument Size	50 mm
Manual Observations Required	Yes
Go-To Telescopes Allowed	
Remote Telescopes Allowed	
Number of Observations	60
Option for Imaging	
Special Equipment Required	
Equipment Must Be Constructed	
Observations Must Be Submitted to an On-Line Database	

retailing (at the time) for around \$117.00. For our northern observers, no object on the list is below minus 35 degrees declination, which is the declination of the most southerly Messier object, M7.

## The Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program

To qualify for the Astronomical League's Deep Sky Binocular Certificate and **pin**, you need only be a member of the Astronomical League, through either an affiliated club or as a Member at Large, and observe the sixty selected objects using only binoculars. Any pair of binoculars may be used, but those with objectives between 50mm and 80mm in diameter are recommended. To record your observations, you may use log sheets similar to those found in the back of the Astronomical League's manual *Observe: A Guide to the Messier Objects* or any other log sheet of your choosing provided that all required information is logged.

## Rules and Regulations

To obtain this certification you must meet the following rules:

Observe the 60 deep sky objects with binoculars and keep a record of your observations. Your notes must show:

1. The object name
2. Date and Time of observation (local or UT)
3. Your Latitude and Longitude
4. Seeing conditions: Seeing and Transparency
5. Type of binocular
6. A short note describing your observation of the object

Observation Requirements	
Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program	
Object Name/Number	Yes
Observer's Latitude	Yes
Observer's Longitude	Yes
Observer's Location (City)	
Observer's Altitude	
Date of Observation (LT or UT)	Yes
Time of Observation (LT or UT)	Yes
Description of Object	Yes
Sketch of Object	Yes
Seeing	Yes
Transparency	Yes
Sky Conditions	
Size of Instrument Used	Yes
Power/Magnification	Yes
Filters Used	

## Submitting for Certification

Only Members at Large need to mail their observing log to the Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program Coordinator. Members of an affiliated society may have their observations reviewed and approved by an officer of their astronomy club. This officer should then contact the Deep Sky Observing Program Coordinator with your information via email. A pin and certificate will be sent to your society for presentation at a meeting. The letter should specify the address to which the Certificate should be mailed. The certificate is suitable for framing.

Be sure to include your name, mailing address, email address, phone number, affiliated society, and to whom the certification should be sent.

Submission Requirements	
Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program	
Observer's Name	Yes
Observer's Mailing Address	Yes
Observer's Club Affiliation	Yes
Observer's Phone Number	Yes
Observer's E-Mail Address	Yes
Information for Person to Send the Award To For Presentation	Yes

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