

Re: Buying time on a professional telescope

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"Brett" <nasanutbm@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1159792121.776495.269390@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Though a free session would be nice, we are willing to start fundraisers in order to pay if necessary, but how much do these sessions normally cost? Can it be done on a tight budget?

You don't give enough data to answer. What do you mean by 'time'. Visual time, or imaging time?. Who are 'you'?. What is the intended 'use' of the observations?. What do you want to observe?. How large a scope do you need?. First thing to remember that few professional telescopes these days will have eyepieces, so 'time' on such scopes will always be 'imaging time', not direct observation. If you are a school, or similar operation, then there are scopes specifically setup to provide time for such organisations. If your target, is an object that is already on a list for an automated observatory, the data may well be available daily for free!. This is true for targets like the Moon, and the brighter planets, as well as for a limited number of DSO's. A typical example of a school/amateur project, would be the Faulkes telescope project, which has two 2m telescopes, one in Hawaii, and one in Australia, providing a number of timeslots free to UK schools. There are then a number of 'discretionary' free slots for UK astronomy societies, with charged for slots for astronomy societies and schools from other countries. There are a number of similar operations in the US, and Canada. The total cost of telescope time, will vary massively with different instruments, but can vary from perhaps \$50/hour, to several thousand dollars per hour for a large scope. The Keck for example, is calculated at just under \$50,000/night...

Best Wishes

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