



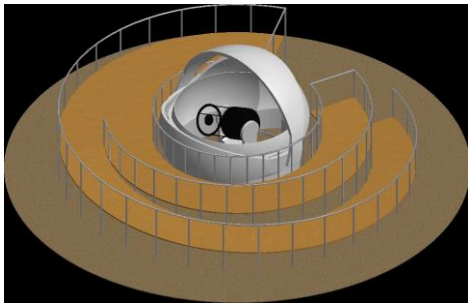
Pikes Peak Observatory, Inc. (PPO)



A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation Dedicated to Public Education

PPO was established in 1997 with a mission *“to engage and excite students, teachers, researchers, and the public in science and technology through the exploration and understanding of our environment and the universe”* utilizing an observatory with one or more telescopes to be placed on the summit of Pikes Peak.

In 1998, an observatory was part of the approved design concept for a new Pikes Peak summit house. This plan was shelved to allow paving of the Pikes Peak Highway to the summit, which is now complete.



Today, PPO proposes a meter class research quality telescope, offering 600,000 Pikes Peak visitors interpretive displays providing an unmatched educational experience. The Observatory can be visited by tourists during daylight hours and operated remotely from the Colorado Springs Science Center or other sites supporting college-level research at night.

The PPO will support astronomical, climate, and weather data collection. Pikes Peak has been validated for quality observing by at least three independent research studies. The observatory can be operated by authorized users worldwide via remote tasking, providing national and global name recognition and creating national and international scientific connections to Pikes Peak. Key beneficiaries of the PPO will be students who gain hands-on experience tasking and collecting data to support their studies. Businesses and the military can also task the observatory in support of their requirements.

PPO offers the advantage of providing current technology in meter class telescopes and remote operations of the observatory, telescope, and climate monitoring instruments without needing personnel on-site. The proposed design limits the observatory’s footprint, minimizing impact on the permafrost while allowing visitors to the summit to learn from interpretive displays. An open truss telescope will facilitate public viewing of the elements of a telescope, and enhance its use supporting STEM education and inspiring students to pursue careers in science.



The Pikes Peak Observatory would be a major contribution to the summit experience for visitors who drive up the Pikes Peak highway or who are passengers on the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad. A mobile laboratory/observatory/remote operations center is planned to go to schools to teach remote operation of the telescope on the summit, encouraging students and staff to join others making a visit to the Peak.