

Directions to Grassland Mountain Observatory in Madison County

Note that this observatory is privately owned and operated by the Astronomy Club of Asheville, and prior approval is required to access it. It's located at 4,130 feet above sea level.

Grassland Mtn. Obs. is a 50-minute drive from downtown Asheville.
(There are bathrooms and a warm room at this site!)

→ **2892 Grassland Pkwy., Marshall, NC 28753** →

[See Map](#)

[See Observatory Web Page](#)

Don't use a web mapping service, like Google Maps, for directions, as you will most certainly get lost!

1. From Asheville take I-26 west for about 8 miles to exit 19A (Marshall, Hot Springs). At the end of the exit ramp veer right onto Hwy. 25/70 and drive for approximately 11 miles.
2. You should then see an Ingles grocery store on your right. The next traffic light will have the entrance to Madison High school on the right.
3. Proceed on Hwy. 25/70 for another 1½ miles. At that point, there will be a "Blue Heron Whitewater" sign on your left and a short left-turn lane onto Little Pine Road.
4. Turn left and drive down Little Pine Road for about 8 miles.
5. You should then see a large wooden horse barn on your left, and, across the road on your right, you should see a small gatehouse building; turn right off Little Pine Road and approach the entrance to Grassland Mountain Preserve. You are now on **Grassland Parkway**.
6. This gate will require a temporary entrance code that will be provided by the club during the week of the observing session.
7. Proceed through the gate and follow the signs for about 2.8 miles up the mountain along Grassland Parkway (about a 2,000 foot climb) to the "Lodge" and eventually to the "Observatory".
8. As you proceed up Grassland Parkway, there are only 2 turns to make. **Turn 1:** About one mile beyond the gate house, make a distinct right turn. It's the first road intersection. **Turn 2:** Proceed farther up the steep climb of Grassland Parkway about another mile, and take a left turn where the road splits (Ts) into two choices. Remember that you should be climbing the whole way; so, any significant downhill travel means you made an incorrect turn.
9. The Observatory is located just past the Lodge at the end of Grassland Parkway.