1. Get an AAVSO observer code (obscode):
   [https://www.aavso.org/apps/member/](https://www.aavso.org/apps/member/)

2. In your account, register your observing site and equipment.

3. Acquire one spectrum of one of the standard stars from the list:
   [https://aavsodev.aas.org/apps/specdb/standardstars](https://aavsodev.aas.org/apps/specdb/standardstars)

4. Reduce your data to produce an 1-d wavelength calibrated and normalized spectrum, and submit the .fits file (we need the header):
   [https://aavsodev.aas.org/apps/specdb/submit](https://aavsodev.aas.org/apps/specdb/submit)

5. If there is a problem, please check the relevant log and correct any errors. Please pay attention to all errors.

6. If your submission is uploaded successfully, you can self-check your observation by clicking on the [view] button. Uses the zoom in/out tool to look at your spectrum. Things to pay attention to:
   a. Is your acquired spectrum similar to the template (are you observing the right star)?
   b. Do you see the same strong absorption features (do you have enough S/N)?
   c. Are all absorption features aligned (is your wavelength calibration accurate within error)?
   d. Is your spectrum normalized (the continuum on the vertical axis ~ 1)

7. Your spectrum will now be validated by a moderator. The moderator will check the same items as step 6, and send you suggestions if there is a problem with your spectrum. During this time you will not be able to upload any spectra.

8. When your test spectrum is validated, you can start your observations!

If you need suggestions on which objects to observe, please go to our spectroscopic observing section page for suggested projects: [https://www.aavso.org/spectroscopy-observing-section](https://www.aavso.org/spectroscopy-observing-section)

Clear skies!