

St Petersburg Astronomy Orange Blossom Special Star Party Rules for a Safe and Enjoyable Experience

I. Arrival and Check-In

- a. a. You should plan your arrival between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. If you arrive at 6:01 PM or later, you will have to park in the designated parking area until morning.
- b. If you plan to arrive early, you must let us know. All early arrivals will be required to pay the park's regular camping fees (\$10.00/night with electric or \$5.00 without electric for tent campers).
- c. Reception will open from 9:00 until 11:00 AM and again from 1:00 until 6:00 PM every day except Saturday. On Saturday the gate will be open from 9:00 AM until 1:45 PM.
- d. Upon arrival and prior to camp setup, you must check in at reception to get your assigned campsite, meal tickets, T-shirts, etc.
- e. Do not move your campsite without first checking with Reception.
- f. The only vehicles allowed beyond registration are those directly associated with camping. All other vehicles must park in the designated area with headlights facing east. You may drive to your campsite to unload your gear only between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. **Driving on or near the observing field, after sundown, is not allowed. There will be no exception to this rule.**
- g. The Park gate is locked at Sundown. You will need the gate combination to enter after dark. Also, you must park in the parking area outside the field and retrieve your vehicle the next day. The gate combination is for the OBS week is 1946.

II. Pets

Pets are always welcome unless they are lions, tigers, bears, or other unruly beasts. Pets must always be under the physical control of an adult owner. Also, you must clean up after your pet for the benefit of all.

III. Lights

- a. Observing is more enjoyable when your eyes are dark adapted. White or bright lights can destroy a person's dark adaptation in an instant. You must refrain from using white flashlights. Only red lights will be permissible after dark. Please take measures to block interior lights from escaping your abode. Use the dimmest amount of light possible, consistent with safety.
- b. We do permit green laser pointers to be used for telescope alignment and astronomy discussions. However, caution must be used so they are never pointed at a person or a passing aircraft. Minors **may not** use green laser pointers. Remember that many of your fellow observers will be imaging, and a laser beam in the frame will ruin a long exposure. Please keep the use of laser pointers to a minimum.

IV. Campfires

No campfires are permitted on the field due to Park regulations.

V. Quiet Time

- a. Quiet Time is between the hours of 10:00 PM and 10:00 AM and noise during this time must be kept to a minimum.
- b. Music has always been a part of our Dark Site activities. Music may be played at times other than quiet time. Impromptu jam sessions are particularly encouraged.
- c. Generators are not permitted by park regulations.