

# SAS Star Party Observing Etiquette Guidelines

## 1. Light

Dark adaptation is important to dark sky observing and it takes human eyes a minimum of 15 minutes to adjust. *Low-intensity red flashlights and red headlamps should be used until all observers are finished and agreeable to brighter illumination at the end of the star party.* This includes, but is not limited to, using cell phones, tablets and laptops, bright displays, car lights (exterior and interior), cigarettes and lighters, camp stoves. Campfires should not be made since they smolder at night. Back-up lights, trunk lights, interior lights and such should be prepped before dark or before arriving. If the lights in your car cannot be turned off, please park far from the main viewing area and cover lights with red tape if possible. Also, if leaving early, rather than using headlights, please request assistance from another SAS member to be led to the exit with a red light.

## 2. Smoking / Vaping

Smoking violates the bright light rule, it can tar other people's telescopes and the odors and smoke can disturb their observing. Smokers can step away out of sight and smell while smoking so the odor doesn't bother others.

## 3. Music

No star party participant should be forced to listen to music or other noise that distracts them or makes them uncomfortable. It is a simple matter of not forcing others to your choice. Many people may like it but if only one does not, then it ruins the event for them. Please acknowledge that even when others want your music to stop, they may not confront you and ask you to stop. Many people will suffer in silence rather than risk an argument or hostilities, but their silence does not justify disrespect shown towards them.

## 4. Arguments / Appropriateness

Please keep discussions light and avoid disrespectful comments. There are many discussion topics capable of becoming arguments that disrupt the observing pleasure of others. Examples are politics, religion, GM vs Ford, PC vs Apple, SCTs vs. Dobs. Those not involved in the discussion may silently be offended, intimidated, or unsettled. In order to maintain a safe and non-hostile environment, insensitive and/or inappropriate discussions should be avoided, including jokes targeting specific subgroups.

## 5. Children

Children are expected to obey all star party guidelines and their parents/guardians are responsible for their behavior. Please keep disorderly conduct to a minimum and have your children conduct themselves respectfully to all star party participants. If your child is misbehaving, please attend to the matter away from the main viewing area.

## 6. Pets

Pets should be kept on a leash away from the main viewing area and it is the owner's responsibility to ensure that their feces are cleaned up, their noise is kept to a minimum, and they keep to themselves. Unfortunately, not everybody likes it when your nice dog jumps up and starts seeking affection.

## 7. **Monitoring**

Fellow star party participants are the final judges of whether any particular behavior is offensive or disruptive to the ambient darkness and the star party setting. If a person at a star party asks you that your behavior is disrupting their observing pleasure and/or abilities, please correct that behavior or resolve the issue with them.

## 8. **Guests and Visitors**

Guests of SAS members should be made aware of these guidelines by the members bringing them and should be expected to honor them.

## 9. **Lasers**

Green lasers are frequently used by SAS members to point out constellations or to aim telescopes. At no time should a laser be handed to a minor or irresponsible person. No lasers should ever be pointed at a human or animal. It is a felony to point a laser at aircraft, so scan the sky first before using. If laser brightness violates guideline #1, then its use should be immediately terminated.

## 10. **Alcohol / Drugs**

All alcohol and drugs are **prohibited** at SAS events.

## 11. **Site Cleanup**

The event site needs to be cleaned up of any material we bring in. "Leave No Trace."