



MIRA Astronomy Club Public Star Party Etiquette

Public stargazing events, or “star parties” hosted by the [MIRA Astronomy Club](#) are intended to be informative, entertaining and memorable. To contribute to a successful event, please adhere to these event guidelines:

1. Arrive at the event within fifteen minutes of the posted start time. (Late arrivers typically create too much light and dust.)
2. Wear enough clothing to stay warm when it gets cooler later in the evening.
3. Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes, as standing and walking around on uneven surfaces is the norm at these events.
4. Use only a red light source when approaching, attending, or leaving the event location. Cover any white light source with red plastic, such as a red plastic bag.
5. If you must illuminate your mobile phone screen, set the screen to red-only illumination, or cover it with red plastic, such as a red plastic bag.
6. Park your car far enough away from the event location and in an appropriate orientation so that, if leaving during the event, your headlights will not shine on other event attendees. Or use only parking lights when pointed in or near the direction of the event location.
7. If driving/parking within fifty yards of the event location, drive slowly to avoid kicking up dust.
8. Do not touch any telescope or other stargazing equipment, unless instructed to do so by the attending astronomer. (Keep your hands down by your side, unless holding onto a ladder.)
9. Do not smoke or vape at the event location. Doing so damages the sensitive optics of stargazing equipment.
10. Do not eat, drink or consume alcohol near stargazing equipment.
11. Do not litter or otherwise deface the event location. All of us are guests of the host location. We want to be invited back.
12. Supervise children at all times. No running or boisterous activity at the event location.
13. When walking within the event location, avoid tripod legs, cables and other potential tripping obstacles on or around stargazing equipment.
14. Leave your pets (other than service dogs) at home.