

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN GLACIER POINT STAR PARTIES

I. Getting There:

1. **Entering the Park:** Fill out the **bottom of this form** and show it to the ranger at the entrance station. You may be also asked to show your telescope to the ranger at the entrance station. (For **fee waiver**) If there is **any confusion** at the gate ask for a blank "**Guest Pass Application**" to visit **Ranger Dave Balogh at Glacier Point.**
2. **Bridalveil Campground:** The group campsite should be reserved for you. A maximum of 30 persons will be able to stay there without charge on Friday and Saturday night. Each club will be asked to mail in a list of those who will be staying without charge. This list will be given to the campground host (if there is one this year) and referred to as people check in upon arrival. As a rule of thumb, the Park Service would like to have between 10 and 20 telescopes present at the Star Party.
3. **Persons in excess of 30 will need to purchase campsites** on a space available basis (first come first served, sorry no reservations). It may be advisable for a member of your group to come a day early to hold extra campsites at Bridalveil Campground. These sites must be paid for at prevailing rates. Individual campsites have a 6 person / 2 car limitation per site.
4. Bridalveil Campground is 8 miles from Glacier Point.

II. The Star Party: (NOTE: Fri. and Sat. are both scheduled Star Parties: Labor Day Weekend Sunday also)

5. One or two **telescopes may be set up to do some solar observing** for the public on Saturday or Sunday. See the ranger on duty at Glacier Point for help in locating your observing site. The rest of the observers should set up their telescopes **for evening viewing no earlier than 7:00 P.M. and no later than 8:30 P.M.** Upon arrival at Glacier Point Parking, look for a ranger for assistance in finding a suitable pad for your telescope. ***Please do not come early.***
6. **All vehicles must be removed to the parking lot immediately after off loading** equipment at the observing site. This is a safety measure, and a way to keep the public from trying to park in the observing area.
7. **The purpose of the Star Party is to provide an interpretive program on astronomy to the park visitors,** please be prepared to answer questions, give explanations, and otherwise provide to the park visitors an introduction to astronomy. There will be problems of light pollution from flashlights, as these visitors are not used to moving around in near total darkness. The club members are asked to be tolerant of persons who feel the need to use their flashlights. The clubs may wish to provide red plastic covers and rubber bands for the visitor's flashlights. After midnight when the program is over, the astronomers may request all flashlights off and they may then feel free to take photographs and observe for the rest of the night.
8. **There is no camping** (includes sleeping in your vehicle) **at the Glacier Point parking lot.** All persons must sleep at the campground. Open fires are not permitted in the star party area, but Coleman type gas stoves are acceptable for hot drinks etc. Restroom facilities are available in the parking lot.
9. **One of your officers may** be assigned by the ranger to **monitor the program** at Glacier Point, the set up and removal of equipment at the observing site, and the conduct of the star party hosts. In the absence of regular N.P.S. personnel this person will have the authority to make decisions.

We trust that these operating procedures will make the Star Parties more enjoyable and function smoothly. If you have any questions or recommendations for improvement please feel free to communicate with the naturalist in charge.

Entrance Fee Waiver:

To Entrance Station: Name of Astronomy Club :The **Santa Cruz Astronomy Club, June 16th and 17th** is providing a naturalist program (as listed in the Yosemite Guide) at Glacier Point this weekend. Dates of fee waiver are Friday – Sunday, to Monday on Labor Day weekend. Please call 372-0346 if you need any further information.