

Honey Creek Observatory – Platte Valley Astronomical Observers Star Party 2020

August 21st and/or 22nd – start time 9:00 PM.

Directions can be found at www.hcobs.org

This is a free event and the public is welcome!

Star Party Etiquette

For amateur astronomers, a “star party” is a chance to observe or photograph the night sky as a group. Honey Creek Observatory is located under some of the darkest skies anywhere. To take advantage of the dark sky found here, certain restrictions need to be followed. For safety reasons other considerations need to be addressed as well.

Do:

- 1) Bring a mask and hand sanitizer if you wish. Hand sanitizer will be available at this event. Practice social distancing.
- 2) Ask lots of questions! We love sharing our hobby with the public!
- 3) Bring binoculars if you have them or your own telescope.
- 4) Bring a flashlight with a red covering if possible.
- 5) Bring a lawn chair, mosquito spray, and soft drinks (No alcohol Please).
- 6) Watch for extension cords on the ground to run scopes. We will try to run them as safely as possible.
- 7) When leaving, if you parked on the observatory grounds, allow us to escort you out with your parking lights only. If you have a vehicle that does not do this – let us know!
- 8) Listen to the person who owns the scope or binoculars you are looking through. They will tell you what you can do and what not to do. Don't risk damaging their equipment by touching something you're not supposed to!

Don't

- 1) Don't use a white flashlight on the observing field.
- 2) Don't use your cell phone unless there is an emergency. If you have astronomy apps on your phone, see if there is a "red mode" for nighttime use. This will keep your eyes adapted to the dark and allow you to see more dim sky phenomena.
- 3) Don't allow young children to run around unsupervised. The equipment you will be viewing through is expensive and easy to damage in certain cases.
- 4) No smoking please.
- 5) Don't forget – there are no restrooms on the observatory grounds!
- 6) Don't miss this chance to learn more about astronomy!

Be aware:

The perimeter of the observatory is surrounded by a single wire electric fence. It will be turned off, but it might be difficult to see in the dark.

The trench used to bury the electricity into the observatory is still exposed in some places behind the observatory. Please do not allow children to go back there unsupervised.

The fence near the entrance to the observatory grounds is barbed wire – not a good thing to get tangled up with!

Once again – there are no restrooms at the observatory – plan accordingly.