



August 17th to 20th, 2023

Dark Sky Festival Etiquette

To ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience at our Dark Sky Festival (DSF) we ask that you follow a few simple guidelines. While at the Pine Lake festival site, applicable Parks Canada rules apply.

- **Most importantly - do not use white lights** after dusk and try to use red lights sparingly.
 - Light disables night vision and will take at least 20 - 30 minutes to adjust.
 - Do not use white lights after dusk and use red lights sparingly.
 - Be aware that your cell phone also acts like a light - keep your cell phones off and tucked away.
 - If you MUST use a white light, shout out a warning.
 - If you are planning to leave after dusk **park your vehicle away** from the general use and observing areas so that your vehicle lights do not ruin anyone's night vision.
- **Pets** - If you bring your pet it **MUST be on a leash** and under control at all times.
 - They are to be kept away from the common areas. Be considerate of those Parks Canada employee attending and their obligation pertaining to the *Canada National Parks Act*:
Part IV - General Rules of the Park (Dogs) **35**.
(1) No owner of a dog shall: (a) permit the dog to run at large...
- **Music** - Remember that music that you love may be extremely irritating to others.
 - Leave no doubt and keep it inside your own head, use a headset.
- **Alcohol and Smoking** - This is a family event.
 - The use or consumption of alcohol, cannabis, tobacco or vaping is not allowed in the DSF common areas.
 - It should be noted that alcohol and cannabis significantly reduce what you can see in dim light.
 - The DSF common area has an accumulation of expensive equipment. Participants will be held financially liable and responsible for damage caused by themselves or their minor participants. See:
CONDITIONS OF USE - #6.
- **Avoid loud and boisterous behaviour.**
 - Astronomy is typically considered a quiet and peaceful activity.

RED LIGHTS - You can make a regular flashlight into a red light by covering it with red cellophane, tape, red fabric, red construction paper, etc. We have supplies on hand to assist you with this.

PETS - Please don't bring dogs to observing area (*where the telescopes are setup*). Leashes can get tangled in telescope tripods and the potential to cause damage, and may create tripping hazards.

AROUND THE TELESCOPES

Do not hesitate to ask !

Be careful. Some telescopes are typically finicky to setup, few of them break rather easily and they are usually expensive to repair or replace.

Ask to look through a telescope. Do not touch any telescopes or equipment without permission.

Do not be afraid to ask and be respectful and careful around telescopes. As noted earlier, they are expensive to repair.

Do not spray bug repellent near the telescopes.

The fine droplets may get on expensive optical surfaces and can seriously damage the optics. Thoroughly clean your hands of any bug dope if you want to use a telescope.

And don't hesitate to ask:

- Look through the telescopes without moving them.
- If you need to focus, ask scope attendant and they will help you.
Do not twist or turn random knobs - things usually fall off when you do that.
Don't hesitate to ask - everyone's eyes are a little different, and chances are that adjusting the focus will help you.
- Do not stand in front of a telescope. Light that has traveled hundreds if not thousands or millions of light years to get to us will be stopped dead-in-its-tracks by the back of your head.
- When wearing glasses and looking through an eyepiece, face the eyepiece square on, usually you can gently place your eyeglass lens flat against the rubber eyecup of the eyepiece.

Youth – Are definitely welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Remember that kids are easily distracted and can become mischievous. Be respectful and make sure that they are supervised, behaved and respectful to the other participants.

Documented fact - kids can get bored.

The festival will involve occasional delays between events and activities. In the evening it will take time to setup the telescopes and later to aim, to focus and to refocus them. We will endeavor to keep kids entertained but, ultimately it is your responsibility.

Our biggest concern with **young children using telescopes** is they have an irresistible urge to grab the eyepiece as part of getting ready to look (*that's what they see scientists do in the cartoons*).

Coach them in advance not do to this – suggest they keep their hands behind their backs. It's not that we mind having the equipment touched, but by grabbing the eye-piece it usually moves the telescope and then it has to be re-aimed, refocused and much time will go by.

Very young children have difficulty looking with only one eye through an eyepiece and in most cases will not see anything.

Please **do not give your kids white-light flashlights or laser pointers to hold** after dusk. There is a 99.98% probability that they will not be able to resist the urge to turn them on and, shine it on someone who will then lose their night-vision.

ENJOY, PARTICIPATE and explore the wonders of our vast night sky and the universe we live in.