

2023 NORTHERN PRAIRIE STAR PARTY (NPSP)
Tuesday, Sept 12 to Sunday, Sept 17, 2023
SCHEDULE, GENERAL INFORMATION AND GROUND RULES

CAMPSITE BOOKING: Visit the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Edmonton Centre website for campsite booking information for Black Nugget Lake Park Campground (<http://edmontonrasc.com/northern-prairie-star-party/>) To reserve, email co-ordinators Rick & Susan Bramm at npstarfest@shaw.ca **Payment for the RASC - reserved site must be made via e-transfer to RASC before arriving onsite.** Daily rates are: powered site @ \$36 & non-powered site @ \$30 (+ \$5 booking fee + GST).

EVENT REGISTRATION FEE: There is an **NPSP Registration Fee** of \$30 per person or \$60 per family. This covers some of our costs, such as reserving the north campground, tent & equipment rentals, speaker & BBQ costs. PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE, if possible – pay via e-transfer or with cash onsite. The 2023 NPSP t-shirt must be ordered in advance– see website for more details.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION: If you are camping overnight, you MUST register at the campground office (up to 8 PM) before going to your reserved site. If you are not camping (evening viewing and/or Saturday program only), **please enter via the North Gate off TWP road 492** (see map at: <https://www.beaver.ab.ca/public/download/files/206106>) between Group Site 8 and site 91. Proceed to the event tent at Site 92 to check in – this is the location of Saturday’s afternoon presentations.

OBSERVING CERTIFICATES: During NPSP (Tuesday to Sunday), participants are welcome to complete one or more **Observing Lists** and/or the **mini-bimarathon**. Get your list(s) at Site 92. Hand in your list by noon on Sunday to be checked and certified.

BACK FOR THIS YEAR: one-on-one Telescope Tuning and Observing sessions with Alister Ling on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. See website for sign up (<http://edmontonrasc.com/northern-prairie-star-party/>).

BLACK NUGGET LAKE OBSERVATORY Viewing & Tour: The 32-inch Unyk-Drew Telescope is now installed, with viewing offered every evening during 2023 NPSP from 9 PM to 1 AM (weather permitting). Daytime tour is on Saturday from 12 to 1 PM.

Tuesday, September 12

EVENING 7:53 PM: Sunset **9:57 PM: Astronomical twilight ends**

Wednesday, September 13 – Stay quiet until noon in the north part of the campground.

MORNING 4:56 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:00 AM: Sunrise

EVENING 7:51 PM: Sunset 9:54 PM: Astronomical twilight ends

Thursday, September 14 – Stay quiet until noon in the north part of the campground.

MORNING 4:59 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:02 AM: Sunrise

EVENING 7:48 PM: Sunset 9:51 PM: Astronomical twilight ends

Friday, September 15 – Stay quiet until noon in the north part of the campground.

MORNING 5:01 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:04 AM: Sunrise

EVENING 7:46 PM: Sunset 9:48 PM: Astronomical twilight ends

12 to 2 PM: - Building and Using Your Own Spectroheliograph – workshop with Dr. Brian Martin at Site 92 (inside event tent and with outside hands-on demonstration)

2 to 4 PM: Sessions/worships on observing or astrophotography (to be determined)

Saturday, September 16 – Stay quiet until noon in the north part of the campground.

MORNING 5:03 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:05 AM: Sunrise

EVENING 7:43 PM: Sunset 9:45 PM: Astronomical twilight ends

11:30 AM – 1:20 PM: Solar observing and telescope set up and use demonstrations (in and around the north shelter area)

12 to 1 PM: Black Nugget Lake Observatory Tour

1:30 PM: Warren Finlay (chair) and Members of the Black Nugget Lake Observatory Committee, RASC – Edmonton Centre – **Black Nugget Lake Observatory (BNLO) and the 32” Unyk Drew Telescope**

2:40 PM: Brian Martin, Professor Emeritus, Physics and Astronomy, The King’s University, Edmonton, Alberta– **Retracing Hubble’s Footsteps – Measure the Expanding Universe from your Backyard!**

4 PM: Erik Rosolowsky Professor, Associate Chair (Undergraduate Studies), Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta– **New Views on Old Friends: Nearby Galaxies across the Spectrum**

5:30 ~ 7 PM: BBQ (burgers, hot dogs, condiments, beverages (NOT potluck)), **grand prizes & NPSP group photo**

Sunday, September 17 – Stay quiet until noon in the north part of campground.

MORNING 5:05 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:07 AM: Sunrise

Noon: deadline to submit completed Observing Lists to at Site 92.

Noon: If leaving the campsite, check out time is 12 noon.

We’ll be back!

Future dates for NPSP are:

Sept. 24 – Sept. 29, 2024

Sept 16 – Sept 21, 2025

Please review the ground rules on the back of this page.

Our basic ground rule is the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

For the North Campground (sites 88 -112 & Group Site 8), the following restrictions apply:

1) LIGHTING RESTRICTIONS – NO EXTRANEIOUS LIGHTS!

- **FLASHLIGHT or HEADLAMP with a RED BEAM** – Use a flashlight or headlamp whose beam is red (it has a red LED or a white LED with the front end of the light covered with one or more layers of red film like RUBYLITH or cellophane). Be careful not to shine your light directly in another person's eyes. Don't use a lantern or a flash while taking nighttime photos.
- **SPECIAL LIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR GROUP SITE 8, the location of the Black Nugget Lake Observatory– For those visiting or camping in this area**, no white lights allowed and low-level red lights only if absolutely necessary. All RV/vehicles windows must be blocked. The use of green laser pointers is strictly forbidden in the BNLO area.
- **ELELCTRONIC DEVICE MONITORS** - Please shield all electronic device monitors (laptops, televisions, cellphones, tablets, etc.). Shielding can be achieved by various means: red film like RUBYLITH, cellophane or acrylic plastic sheeting; switching APPS to night vision mode; or placing devices in a stray-light reducing enclosure.
- **VEHICLE HEADLIGHTS** - Driving around the main observing/camping fields after dark is permitted only in an emergency. Headlights should remain off or should be covered by red filter material. **(IF IT'S A TRUE EMERGENCY - JUST GO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HEADLIGHTS.)**
- **OTHER VEHICLE LIGHTS** - Interior dome or vehicle lights must be disabled or colored red. Don't forget your trunk light!
- **TENT, CAMPER & MOTORHOME LIGHTS** - Camper, trailer or motorhome running lights, porch lights and interior lights must be disabled or covered with red film. Also, cover windows to prevent light escaping into observing areas.
- **VEHICLES of NON-CAMPING ATTENDEES** - The vehicles of non-camping attendees will be parked in a special area, with headlights pointing away from the viewing area so they may leave after dark without interfering with dark sky observing.
- **NO CAMPFIREs NEAR THE OBSERVING AREAS** - Not only are campfires a source of unwanted light; their smoke and heat interfere with viewing, as well as coating optical surfaces with unwanted soot.

2) GREEN LASER POINTER USE RESTRICTIONS

- **GREEN LASER POINTERS** – Green Laser Pointers are not to be used at the 2023 NPSP except by RASC members that have been trained and certified to use them, and specifically designated for this event.

3) FOR ALL SITES USED BY 2023 NPSP ATTENDEES

- **VEHICLES - DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE SLOWLY** to minimize the amount of dust that is disturbed.
- **THE NORTH COOK SHELTER MAY BE USED**, according to applicable COVID-19 protocols.
- **PETS** - We discourage bringing your pets to NPSP. However, if you must bring a pet, it must always be leashed and controlled. Remember, we'll all be walking around in the dark. NPSP reserves the right to restrict pets from certain areas.
- **ALCOHOL** - Most astronomers discourage its use because of the effect it has on the sensitivity of eyes. NPSP will not tolerate the abuse of alcohol or the use of illegal substances and any behavior they might cause which is inconsistent with community standards.
- **PERSONAL CONDUCT** - This is a family event. Loud, aggressive and/or profane speech is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Aggressive behavior will not be tolerated regardless of the reason behind it or who first initiated it. **Please refer to the final item in this list.**
- **KEEP THE SOUND DOWN - BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS**
 - **QUIET UNTIL NOON** - Those observing the night skies may stay up until after 5 AM and sleep until noon, so please ensure that you and other members of your party including pets are as quiet as possible during this period.
 - **SPEAK QUIETLY** if you observe well into the morning. Remember that, for various reasons, many others don't observe into the early hours and are sleeping.
 - **TURN DOWN THE VOLUME** – Listen to the natural soundscape around you.
- **THEFTS** - Thefts have occurred at other star parties all over North America. Protect your property. We will assist the local authorities in the prosecution of anyone caught stealing.
- **LIABILITY** - The RASC and the organizers of 2023 NPSP accept NO responsibility or liability for damage or injury to your equipment or you.
- **WARNING** - The RASC and the organizers of 2023 NPSP and/or the operators of Black Nugget Lake Campground reserve the right to eject any person not willing to comply with these standards. **Please also refer to Black Nugget Lake Campground rules (<https://www.beaver.ab.ca/tourism/campgrounds/black-nugget-lake>).** Leave your campsite tidy and free of garbage.