



Star Party Etiquette

1. No Smoking. This is especially important at the Empire-Cienega site due to the dry, grassland area where there is almost always a fire hazard. You can smoke in your car, provided you use your ashtray.
2. No Alcoholic Beverages.
3. Keep the Area Clean. Please pick up your trash.
4. Do not idle vehicles.
5. It is best to arrive by twilight. Twilight ends one hour after the sun sets. If you arrive late, please turn off your headlights as you approach the group (Parking lights are okay.) Anyone with a vehicle equipped with running lights should do all they can to arrive before dark. If you must arrive after dark, please park away from the main group and walk to the main group.
6. No white lights after twilight; only red lights are to be used. White light ruins your dark adaptation but red light will not have as much effect.
7. Ask permission before looking through another's telescope. If you bring a telescope, expect that others will want to see what you are looking at. Star parties are very social events!
8. Be aware of astrophotographers. As a courtesy, plan your departure around their exposures. When leaving, make an announcement if your back up lights will turn on. If possible, park so that you do not need to use reverse.
9. If your dome light isn't on a switch, please put red cellophane over it. Switched lights should remain off if they are not filtered with red cellophane.
10. There are NO FACILITIES WHATSOEVER at the Empire-Cienega site. Electricity and water are not available. Please keep this in mind when inviting guests or bringing young children. There is a bathroom at the TIMPA site and a phone for emergencies is located under the ramada.

Star parties are fun. Please don't let these guidelines discourage you from attending. You do not need a telescope to attend. In fact, it's a great opportunity to get some experience with telescopes without purchasing one!