



**TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION
GRAND CANYON STAR PARTY CAMPSITE ADMINISTRATION**

Administration of TAAA Free Campsites at Grand Canyon Star Party

The National Park Service (“NPS”) traditionally allocates 20 free campsites to the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association (“TAAA”). TAAA is assigned the responsibility for allocating and managing these campsites for the eight-night duration of the Grand Canyon Star Party (“GCSP”). Use of these campsites is allocated to amateur astronomers who apply for them according to procedures developed by TAAA and coordinated by the TAAA GCSP Director.

Priority for space in the campsites is given to astronomers volunteering for 6 to 8 nights/days of the GCSP. These campsites are to be shared by volunteer who may bring a limited number of family members/friends with them to share the experience. However, all such persons must have obtained approved reservations through the TAAA GCSP Star Party Director prior to checking in for a campsite.

Obtaining and/or retaining use of this free campsite space is a privilege, NOT a right. Failure to adhere to NPS rules (see Mather Campground rules), to willingly cooperate with NPS requests or priorities in the campground, and/or to follow any TAAA procedures/rules may result in loss of campground privileges/site-use for the remainder of the current GCSP, and/or succeeding years of the GCSP.

The person coordinating the campground reservation with TAAA is the responsible party for everyone in that group occupying the campsite. The infractions of the NPS or TAAA rules any member of the party may result in sanctions on all members of the party. Repeated infractions may result in the entire party being required to leave the TAAA campsites or result in loss of the opportunity to obtain a free campsite in following years for all individuals in that party.

Rules for quiet hours:

Due to the nature of astronomical activities, quiet hour rules for the TAAA sites in Mather Campground have been modified. To accommodate both the astronomers and their family members, quiet hours in Aspen Loop will be extended from 10:00p.m. to 9:00a.m. During quiet hours:

- GCSP activities, or their preparation, will not begin before 9:00a.m.
- GCSP campers minimize noise as much as possible through the entire area of Aspen Loop, including campsites, pathways and restrooms.
- Avoid the use of hand-dryers in the restrooms.
- Voices should be kept at a level that does not carry beyond the individual’s campsite. (If you can be heard by anyone in any other campsite, you are too loud for quiet hours.)
- Astronomers returning in late hours need to close car doors quietly and avoid disturbing others.
- Do not walk through others’ campsites.
- Generators should not be used during any portion the quite hours. The combination of NPS and TAAA rules allow for generators from 6:00-8:00 pm in the free astronomer sites.



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Reservations and Procedures for TAAA/GCSP Campsites

1. Persons wishing to obtain a campsite must apply to the TAAA GCSP Director during the pre-registration period which begins on March 1st of the year of the GCSP. They will receive a notice of approved/not-approved/or approved-pending-space-available prior to the GCSP. (If a notice is not received, it is the applicant's responsibility to further communicate with the GCSP Director.)
2. Persons approved for a campsite will follow NPS regulations and wait until after 12:00 noon on the first day of the GCSP to check-in for a site.
3. Prior to entering the campground, the approved camper will stop at Camper Services at the entrance to Mather Campground and secure a copy of the current fire restrictions in the campground and Mather Campground rules.
4. The camper will then proceed to check-in with the TAAA Campground Coordinator on Aspen Loop and review the availability of free campsites and the camper's needs.
5. During check-in, the camper will provide in writing the names and contact information for all members of their party. The camper will read and sign the Policy/Rules Statement and will take responsibility for educating everyone in their party regarding the rules, procedures and consequences. Any camper who does not provide information on members of their party and/or sign the required statements of compliance to rules and procedures will forfeit campground privileges for that year, and their space may be reallocated to someone on the waiting list.
6. Two infractions cited by NPS rangers and/or the TAAA GCSP Director or TAAA Campground Coordinator, collectively by any member of the party, in a single year may result in loss of the opportunity to obtain a free campsite the following year for everyone in that party
7. Renting a campsite prior to GCSP does not qualify campers for a free campsite during GCSP. Nor does it guarantee that the camper will retain the same campsite during the GCSP. As with any other person requesting a free campsite, campers with paid reservations prior to the first night of the GCSP must register with the TAAA GCSP Director before the GCSP and coordinate with the TAAA Campground Coordinator at check-in. All procedures/requirements must be followed including requirements regarding checkout.

NOTE: Anyone ineligible for unable to obtain a free campsite is invited to participate in GCSP, but must obtain other lodging either in or outside the Park.



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TAAA/GCSP Policy/Rules Statement

Name of primary Party for Reservation (as previously approved by TAAA GCSP Director):

Contact information for Primary Party: _____

Names and contact information for all other adults (age 18 and older) in your party for whom reservations were previously approved by the TAAA GCSP Director (only persons directly approved by TAAA GCSP Director may stay in free campground spaces): _____

Names and ages of all minors (under age 18) in your party for whom reservations were previously approved by the TAAA GCSP Director (only persons directly pre- approved by TAAA GCSP Director):

Please initial indicating your agreement to each of the items below.

_____ I understand that in making a reservation for the above individuals that I assume and share responsibility for not only my own, but also, their Campground Behavior and Compliance with all Campground rules/procedures/instructions of the National Park Service, TAAA GCSP Director and TAAA GCSP Campground Coordinator. I understand that all parties assigned to a site may be held responsible for infractions at that site.

_____ I have checked in at the Camper Services Kiosk, received a copy of current NPS rules and information about the current fire status/restrictions. I take responsibility for sharing that information with all members of my party listed above.

_____ I have read the attached "TAAA Policy Statement Regarding Free Campsites at GCSP Donated by NPS and Managed by TAAA" and "TAAA GCSP Procedures for Obtaining Free Campsites." I realize that obtaining and retaining a free campsite is based on compliance to all rules and procedures.

_____ I realize that participation in the GCSP is not limited to persons obtaining free campsites, and, most astronomers participating in the GCSP pay for their own housing during the event. If I do not obtain or retain a free campsite, I understand that I am not excluded from volunteering for the event.

_____ I have read and realize to obtain/retain a free campsite I must comply with "Other GCSP Campground Rules for Free Campsites".

Campsite Assigned: _____

Signature of TAAA Campground Coordinator _____ Date: _____