



Okie-Tex Star Party
PO Box 22804
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

www.okie-tex.com
starpartyinfo@okietex.com

Welcome to Okie-Tex!

We appreciate your interest in our star party and we know you'll have a great time with us! Our guests drive hundreds of miles to experience what you are about to see! When it comes to astronomy and just enjoying the night sky, the skies at Okie-Tex are truly *spectacular!*

Some Guidelines for Your Safety and Comfort

We have a few guidelines we must ask you to adhere to prior to and during your visit. These guidelines are for your safety and the safety of our other guests, as well as to preserve the quality of our observing environment and make your experience at the star party the best it can be.

A Reservation Is Required

For your safety, all groups attending the star party must have a reservation and must be escorted by a star party staff member while at the party. Groups arriving without a reservation will regrettably be refused access at the gate. You may contact the registrar by mail at the address above or email the registrar at registrar@okie-tex.com. Please provide the registrar with an estimate of the expected number of participants in your group and the night you would like to visit. Please note that Wednesday through Saturday nights are not available for group visits. Group reservations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Dress Warmly

Our star party is held in the fall and usually our days are very pleasant but once the sun goes down, the temperature drops quite rapidly at the camp. Please bring a coat, gloves and cap so you can enjoy the star party in comfort.

When You Arrive

Try to arrive before our dark-out period begins at 9pm. As you approach, please keep your headlights on low beam and please park your vehicles with headlights facing away from the gate (toward the highway). Please do not drive beyond the gate entrance.

No White Light

Under no circumstances will white light flashlights be allowed on the observing fields. If you bring white light flashlights you'll be asked to leave them in your vehicle so please make sure all of your group members are equipped with a red-filtered flashlight or red LED penlight. Both types are readily available at department or sports stores or you can make a red filtered flashlight by applying tail light repair film, red fingernail polish or other red films over the flashlight lens.

Red LED penlights are best because of their lower brightness. Once your eyes are dark adapted, you'll find you'll need very little light to see your way around. When using your red light flashlight, keep it pointed toward the ground. Many of our guests will be taking astrophotographs and we wouldn't want an exposure ruined by an errant beam of light!

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We'll Meet You at the Gate

Please, for your safety, do not allow any of your group members to enter into the star party grounds without an escort. A star party staff member will meet you at the gate to act as your guide and make sure everyone is properly equipped and prepared prior to escorting your group into the star party grounds.

As You Go In

Please follow your guide to the orientation area. The drive you'll be walking down is between the observing fields so please keep your flashlights pointed at your feet and watch your step. It will seem dark at first but as your eyes acclimate, you'll soon be able to see well. Once you've arrived at the orientation area, we'll have short talk on what you're going to be doing and provide some information on what you can expect to see. Then, depending on the size of your group, we'll most likely split into parties of around 4 or 5 and proceed to the observing fields.

Look But Don't Touch!

The equipment in use on the observing fields is both delicate and expensive and besides, the best observing is done when the telescopes are not touched. So please, don't touch and please, do enjoy the views!

School Groups... Please Take Note!

For the safety of your students and our other guests, please make sure you have enough chaperones in your party to maintain order. A good rule of thumb might be one chaperone for every 4 to 6 students. The observing fields and other areas around the site will be very dark and must be kept that way. Yet there are cables and equipment scattered about so this is not the place for horseplay! Groups that can't maintain order will regretfully be asked to leave and will be escorted to the gate. Thank you in advance for following these guidelines!

How to Get To Okie-Tex



The Okie-Tex Star Party is held at Camp Billy Joe just east of Kenton, Oklahoma on State Highway 325.

From Boise City, Take Highway 325 out of Boise City past Black Mesa State Park. When the highway turns toward the west, watch for our sign right before you get to Kenton. The entrance will be on your left.

From Clayton, New Mexico, take Highway 18 north to Highway 325 and go east just past Kenton. The camp entrance will be on your right.

Okie-Tex Star Party Group Liability Release

By my signature below, I hereby affirm that:

On behalf of the group members, I am releasing the Oklahoma City Astronomy Club, the member societies and organizers ("Providers") from any and all liability due to injuries or damages received or sustained by a member of my group arising out of or occasioned by the actions of the Providers in the execution of performance of the Okie-Tex Star Party.

On behalf of the group members, I further waive any claim that we, our heirs, assigns or personal representatives may have against the Providers for all accidents, injuries or losses that may be incurred while participating in the Okie-Tex Star Party.

On behalf of the group members, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Providers for any costs incurred (including legal fees) in defending any action brought against the providers as a result of our participation in the Okie-Tex Star Party.

My signature upon this form also indicates agreement and acceptance on behalf of all group members and minor children (listed below), under my care in attendance.

Minor Children:

Group Members of Legal Age:

Provide additional participant names as required on a separate page.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Group Leader Responsible for Group Attendance

Name: _____

Name of signatory (please print)

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

This release must be signed and mailed to the Registrar, or provided to the Okie-Tex staff at the party prior to admission.

mail the signed form to: Registrar
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Oklahoma City, OK 73123