

San Diego Astronomy Association

Rules for the Tierra del Sol Observing Site

These rules are intended to provide access and use of the San Diego Astronomy Association property for as many members and guests as possible, yet permit each person to pursue the study and enjoyment of astronomy to their fullest satisfaction.

Access to the property is a privilege of membership. All members and guests are required to abide by the rules outlined below and to conduct themselves in a dignified and orderly manner at all times. The Board of Directors and the Site Host(s) will handle violations. Violations could result in ejection from the property, loss of privileges, or dismissal from the SDAA.

1. Access to the property will be by combination only, except during regularly scheduled public viewing nights (Star Parties). Members are responsible for their guests.
2. Everyone is responsible for the own litter. If you bring it in, take it out!
3. No open fires are permitted without Board approval and a State forestry burning permit. Bar-B-Cues are permitted only in the posted, designated areas and shall not be left unattended. Smoking is permitted only in private vehicles, with doors and windows closed, or in the Southeast corner (near restrooms) or Northwest corner of the public parking area, and away from vegetation.
4. Members and guests shall use only the minimum light necessary for safety. Light must be red or masked in red to preserve night vision. Lights shall be kept pointing toward the ground whenever possible. The use of laser pointers is prohibited at all times. Laptop computers should use a red filter and be masked or shielded so that no stray light escapes the sides of the display. Check and be sure it is clear to use lights before proceeding in or out of any area. Be considerate of others and their night vision and photography efforts.
5. Noise shall be kept to a minimum. No loud music, CB's, horns, yelling, etc., especially between the designated quiet hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
6. Dust shall be kept to a minimum. With the exception of handicapped persons, the use of any wheeled vehicle, bicycle, or motorized vehicle is prohibited, except to go to and from your observing area. Speed limit on the property is 5 MPH.
7. Discharging of firearms is prohibited.
8. The Board of Directors must approve removal of brush, trees, or any other flora and fauna.
9. The last Contributing member to leave the site is responsible for turning off all lights, power and water, securing all equipment, assuring no others are on the property, and locking all doors and gates.
10. Site users will be familiar with the SDAA Star Party Rules.
11. On official public star party nights, the Board will appoint a host(s) to be responsible for the enforcement of the rules, and the operation of the property during the observing session. Their duties will be defined by the Board and the appointment rotated among the Contributing members.
12. On non star party nights, guests must be accompanied by a Contributing member.
13. All pets must be controlled by a leash at all times. Owners are responsible for the actions of and their pets and for cleaning up after their pets.

San Diego Astronomy Association

Rules for the Tierra del Sol Observing Site

14. We ask that all users of the wireless internet access at TDS please do not use P2P software or download large files or pirated material. The internet access is provided over satellite and bandwidth is limited. We also ask that you use an updated virus scanner and firewall to reduce the chances of spreading malware to other computers on the network.
15. Parking in the public pad area shall be on the north side of each pad. Guests shall park their vehicles in the areas designated for parking, and not along the public pads or in the accesses to the private pad areas. Public Pad access is on a first come, first served basis; no reserving or "Saving" of spots is allowed. Physical space used on the Public Pad should be kept to a maximum of the width of your vehicle plus 18" to each side. If, conditions warrant, more space may be used, but only after observing has begun.
16. Groups, either students or friends of members, larger than 8 in number, must be approved by the Board of Directors, prior to their visit. All groups, of any size, must abide by the above rules, must arrive before dark and must have a prearranged departure time. The group **MUST** be instructed in white light etiquette before the night of the visit. Regardless of the night of the visit, weekdays or non-star party weekends, these rules must be strictly obeyed. Failure to comply with these rules will be punishable, as deemed necessary, by the Board of Directors.
17. When children are helped up onto ladders or step stools, they should always be accompanied by a parent and supervised. You should never touch a child for any reason in the dark unless it is a bona fide emergency to prevent injury.

Emergencies

Dealing with an emergency depends upon the venue. In general, representatives of the host group should step in to address an emergency. In lieu of other direction, the following apply:

1. Do not panic. This seems like such a simple and mundane rule, but it is important not to panic. Keeping a clear head can save lives, including your own.
2. Get to a telephone, either landline or cellular. Cell phones may not work if you chose a remote location, so take this into account. Make sure your cell phone is charged before leaving for the event!
3. Call the appropriate authorities, and carefully and calmly describe the situation to them.
4. Do not move an individual who is down unless they are in imminent danger.
5. **If you have not been trained in emergency medical techniques, do not apply medical assistance unless someone is in imminent danger of death. Wait for paramedics or other trained personnel to arrive.**
6. Keep others clear of the area so that emergency vehicles are able to quickly arrive and offer assistance.

The above rules are general guidelines for conduct on SDAA property. All members and guests must be considerate of the other members and shall conduct themselves accordingly. Courtesy and common sense are the keys to successful and enjoyable group observing. Each person must help in protecting the property and equipment of the Club. Help keep operating and maintenance costs to a minimum by prudent use of the site, observance of the rules, and by reporting violations or other problems as they occur to the Board or host. In addition to these rules, all County, State, Federal, and Forestry Laws are applicable, shall be observed and are enforced.