

Junior Space Science Investigator Badge

Star Party

How to Host a Star Party

- Star Parties give girls the opportunity to experience astronomy first hand and put their observation skills to work. Star Parties may involve binoculars or telescopes, but guests should also be encouraged to start the party by observing with just their eyes.
- Hosting a Star Party will require some advance planning. It's important to hold the Star Party at a convenient time, in an accessible area, and to notify parents and guests well in advance. You'll want your site to have a clear view of the horizon with few trees or buildings blocking the view, a flat surface, no nearby street lights, access to parking and restrooms.
- An amateur astronomer is a perfect resource to help you lead your Star Party. Visit the Night Sky Network [here](#) to find an amateur astronomy club near you.

Star Party Checklist

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| ● Location/Date and time | ● Site preparations |
| ● Volunteers to help | ● Equipment and supplies |
| ● Transportation | ● Refreshments |
| ● Proper forms | ● Additional activities and supplies |
| ● Invitations | ● Backup plan in case of rain or clouds |
| ● Blanket or chairs | ● Proper attire |

Helpful Tips

- The more telescopes the merrier—we suggest at least one telescope for every 15 people. Encourage volunteers to bring any telescopes or binoculars they may have at home.
- You may want to create activity stations for girls to rotate through while they're waiting to use the telescopes. At one station, girls could apply red cellophane to their flashlights to help keep their eyes dark adapted.
- If it works better for you and your troop, you can observe the sky during the day. For example, girls can observe the Moon and its phases, look at the Sun and sunspots through a safe solar filter, measure shadows, and observe the position and colors of the sunrise and sunset.

Telescope Etiquette

- Ask the telescope owner(s) how they would like the girls to interact with their telescopes.

For More Fun

- Plan your Star Party around a meteor shower. Go [here](#) for a meteor shower calendar.
- Camp out or have a sleepover at your Star Party location.
- Tell constellation myths from different cultures around a campfire. Have girls create plays, stories, or poems about the constellation myths and act them out for their guests.