



www.nightskyfestival.org

The Night Sky Festival is an annual fundraising event that celebrates Joshua Tree National Park's night sky. This event is a major fundraiser for Sky's The Limit Observatory and Nature Center (STL) and Joshua Tree Residential Education Experience (JTREE), both are non-profit organizations.

Event festivities will include morning and evening events, plus two special night sky photography workshops starting on Friday, September 3. Saturday is a star-filled day with multiple sessions...some are open registration and others are pre-purchased tickets only.

Sunday presents several options of family-friendly activities such as making arrows and leather pouches like the Native Americans and panning for gold.

All tickets and registration are online only at www.nightskyfestival.org. Add-ons such as VIP Parking will be available during online purchase of your tickets.

Tickets include a shuttle from Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms to Sky's The Limit. For people with disabilities, accessible transportation will be provided by contacting us at contact@skysthelimit29.org.

Tickets go on sale beginning July 1, 2020. Tickets are limited, so get yours quickly...they do sell out!

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Glow-In-The-Dark Souvenir T-Shirts will be sold on the day of the event due to high demand during registration at the Community Center at Luckie Park. Both adult and child sizes will be available on a first-come, first-service basis until supplies run out. Adult sizes are \$20, youth sizes are \$15.



REGISTRATION & STAR-FUN

Saturday, September 4 | 1:00 – 8:30 pm | Community Center at Luckie Park

All tickets for paid events must be PURCHASED IN ADVANCE! All Night Sky Pass wristbands, VIP Parking vouchers, activity tickets and other important information MUST be picked up at the registration table at the Community Center at Luckie Park, Twentynine Palms. While you are there, have some star-fun at a space photo booth and get creative with youth crafts (from 1 to 5:30 pm). Visit the information tables for International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) and other supporting organizations. These activities are FREE.

ORRERY, NATURE/WILDERNESS TRAILS & YOUTH CRAFTS

Saturday, September 4 | 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Definition: orrery [awr-uh-ree] noun, a scaled model of the solar system.

The morning program held at Sky's The Limit will feature several short hikes on easy trails with docents explaining the plants, animals and geology of our special environment. Youth can participate in the youth crafts group. This morning program will also have a solar telescope and walkable Orrery. *The Orrery is a scale model of our solar system that is large enough to walk around and through.* These events are included in your Saturday Star Pass, but please register for specific time slots. Don't forget to get your glow-in-the-dark t-shirts which are ONLY available at the registration check-in at the Community Center in Luckie Park.

AFTERNOON ASTRONOMY PRESENTATIONS

These lectures will be held at Patriotic Hall at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms.

Ashley Pipkin | Night Skies and the National Park Service **Saturday, September 4 | 2-3 pm**

Ashley Pipkin is a *National Park Service Biologist for the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division*. During Ashley's lecture and presentation, you will learn about the amazing opportunities to view night skies throughout the National Park Service. Explore ways that the NPS is protecting these celestial views and how they benefit people and wildlife.

Keri Bean | The Exploration of Mars — Past, Present, and Future **Saturday, September 4 | 3-4 pm**

Keri Bean is a *Systems Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory*. Take a look back at some of the exciting discoveries we've made at Mars, which missions are currently exploring the red planet, and which ones are to come during this special presentation by Keri.

Dean Regas | Tour of the Universe: You Are Here **Saturday, September 4 | 4-5 pm**

Dean Regas is an *Astronomer for the Cincinnati Observatory*. During his presentation you can rocket through space and sail among billions of stars and galaxies. Utilizing some amazing simulation software Dean Regas guides you through the mind-boggling scale of the universe. Along the way you'll stop at the Moon and individual planets. Then you'll make the jump to light speed and head to interstellar space and see all the galaxies in the universe. Don't worry, he'll have you back home in time for dinner!

NIGHT SKY STAR PARTY – “NIGHT SKY PASS”

Saturday, September 4 | 7 – 11 pm | \$50 (adults), \$35 (6-12)

With your Night Sky Pass purchases, you can view the spectacular features of our desert sky during this night-time star party through 20 telescopes with astronomers at each as these experts explain what you are seeing...all while taking constellation tours and enjoying live music and night sky storytelling.

VIP PARKING available: Avoid waits, come & go as you please...purchase your VIP Parking tickets for your assigned parking spot at Sky's The Limit campus. Only 60 spaces available.

Please note there is also accessible shuttle service from Luckie Park to and from Sky's The Limit. All Accessible spots are free at the Luckie Park Community Center in 29 Palms. An accessible van, on an approximately 40-minute round trip schedule, will transport wheelchair users and special needs guests to the drop-off spot on the accessible route to telescopes, music, and constellation tours on Sky's The Limit campus. VIP spots on the STL campus are not on the accessible route. They are assigned on a first-come-first-served basis, with the earliest reservations closest to the first telescope position, but still requiring a short walk. Latest reservations are assigned spots closest to the campus entry, but furthest from the activities. Wheelchair users and special needs guests may be dropped off at the accessible route by companions who will then park in their assigned VIP spot. Those companions will be able to pick up at the same spot at any time during the evening. The advantage to purchasing a VIP parking spot is maximum control over arrival and departure during the evening. Shuttle service will run approximately every 20 minutes; vans approximately every 40 minutes. Don't forget to purchase VIP parking which are ONLY available during pre-paid ticket registration.

NIGHT SKY LIGHT PAINTING PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Friday, September 3 | 8:00 – 10:00 pm | Cap Rock in Joshua Tree National Park

\$180 per person | Limited to 5 Participants (minimum age 14)

Spend the evening with professional photographer, Casey Kiernan, making unique light painting images of the night sky at Cap Rock inside Joshua Tree National Park. You will learn multiple lighting techniques. Be prepared for a very creative workshop!

Casey has been a professional photographer for over two decades, with coverage in numerous magazines, including cover shots. Casey's works have appeared on CBS News, Al Jazeera, History Channel, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival, Gila Film Festival and numerous other publications. Casey specializes in 4K, motion-control, time-lapse, Milky Way photography, Iceland landscapes, desert landscapes and cityscapes, including aerial drone filming. Additionally, Casey is the videographer for Joshua Tree National Park. His work can be viewed on Getty Images and [Vimeo](https://www.vimeo.com/caseykiernan).

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

This workshop requires that you have a DSLR (or mirrorless) camera which allows for the manual settings of aperture, exposure duration and ISO. The camera should support interchangeable lenses. 50MM or 24-70MM is ideal, but wider is acceptable (lenses can be rented online). You will also need a tripod. Checkout Casey's Gear Guides for more information at <https://www.joshuatreeworkshops.com/gear-overview>

NIGHT SKY ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Friday, September 3 | 6:30 – 10:00 pm, plus

Saturday, September 4 | 10 am for post photography work

\$150 per person | Limited to 5 Participants (minimum age 14)

Educator at Cypress High School and avid hiker, marathoner and photographer Dean Delgado makes Sky's The Limit his classroom Sky's The Limit Observatory for an amazing photography workshop where you capture a unique vision of the dark Night Skies over Joshua Tree National Park. Following is the itinerary for this 2-session workshop:

Friday:

6:30 pm - Welcome & Introductions

6:45 - Camera setups & expected settings

7:15 - Night targets & composition

7:30 - Last minute Q & A

7:45 - Head to Sky's The Limit

8:15 - 10:00 - Astrophotography

Saturday:

10:00 am - Q & A about last night

10:15 - Selection of images

10:30 - Step by step guide to processing images

11:30 - Final touch-ups and selection of best image

11:45 - "Show and Tell" & final thoughts

End by 12:30 pm

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- DSLR Camera (required)
 - wide angle lens and/or zoom lens, memory card and 2 camera batteries
 - app or camera connection to allow long exposures (preferred, but not critical)
- Tripod (required)
- Red light or headlamp
- Laptop Computer (for Saturday session)
- Clothing based on weather
- Own snacks & drinks

ARROW AND LEATHER POUCH WORKSHOP

Sunday, September 5 | 8:00 am - noon | \$85 per person | Limited to 20 Participants

includes snack and refreshment

with Tony Soares at Luckie Park Pavillion

First, each student is guided through making their very own arrow by skilled flintknapper/artist, Tony Soares. All materials and instruction are provided for mounting the arrowhead and embellishing your arrow. There will be options to use arrow weed or pine arrow dowels to paint or decorate with leather straps, feathers and other traditional items.

Next, Tony shows students how to sew their own leather pouches like those made by Native Americans. These bags were traditionally used for everything we typically use bags for today. Some of the pouches have been found with arrows, Atlatl points, fore shafts, sinew, feathers, medicinal plants, and gaming pieces. As he teaches this workshop, he will share stories of those long ago who also used these methods for making arrows and pouches.

Tony has been flint knapping for more than 30 years. He has worked in The Springs Preserve Museum in Las Vegas Nevada, The Pechanga Casino in Temecula California, and many small museums around the Southwest. He was recently a flint knapping stunt doubled for Jason Momoa and Wes Studi in Road to Paloma.

For more about Tony, visit <https://flintknappers.com/store/native-clays>

ROCK SCRAMBLING HIKE THROUGH CHASM OF DOOM (PENDING NPS APPROVAL)

Sunday, September 5 | 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 am | \$30 pp

4 groups of 10 people each led by 2 qualified guides

In 100 yards, transit through a mountain...yes, a mountain! Experienced leaders will guide you through the "Chasm of Doom" in Joshua Tree National Park. The Chasm is a cave/tunnel that starts on the outer side, then runs over, under and through a large rock formation.

This scrambling hike is not for the faint of heart and requires a bit of climbing/scrambling skills, plenty of nerve, and a willingness to get dirty. Some sections are even quite a squeeze, such as the "Coffin" where a good wiggler can make their way through. Those unable to fit and wiggle through the tight space have the option to use an outer route on exposed rock.

This premiere rock scramble has earned its title. While we do not intend to scare participants, it is important to understand the requirements for such a scramble. Ages 12+ are recommended who are relatively physically fit and do not have overwhelming fears of heights and tight or dark spaces. Protective helmets are required (some will be available to borrow). Water and snack a must!

The hike will be schedule in 4 group time slots with a limit of 10 participants in each group. Pending approval.

PANNING FOR GOLD

Sunday, September 5 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm | \$10 per miner

With First Class Miners at Sky's The Limit Observatory

Join First Class Miners, a family orientated, educational non-profit organization founded in 1993 for a real panning for gold experience in the Mojave Desert. Created by twenty students of the first prospecting class at Copper Mountain College in 1992, it was appropriately named First Class Miners. Since 2005, First Class Miners began to provide educational mining and gold panning demonstrations at local events around the Morongo Basin.

Some of their members have been panning for quite some time and are very excited to show us all how they do it. As an added element to the event, they will have their mobile historical mining museum. By the way...any gold found during a panning event is kept by the finder.

First Class Miner's President, Ron Matthias notes, "Hey, kids...I'm almost sure after our team of volunteer miners show you how to pan for gold, you might just find some! Dads and Moms, you are also welcome to give it a try."

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COVID-19 Protocol: The safety, respect and comfort of all Night Sky Festival participants is of utmost importance. Therefore, we require all participants to wears masks for all indoor activities and shuttle transport to and from activity locations. This includes Patriotic Hall, Luckie Park Community Services Building, observatory at Sky's The Limit campus and the shuttle buses. We also ask that you be respectful of others by provided safe social distances in these locations. Thank you for your cooperation.