



www.nightskyfestival.org

The Night Sky Festival is an annual 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.

2023 Solar Eclipse ... Join astronomers for a viewing of this rare solar eclipse event!



Where: Luckie Park, 74362 Joe Davis Dr, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

When: Saturday, October 14, 2023, 8:30 - 10:00 am

Other Night Sky Festival activities will include morning and evening events, plus a special night sky photography workshop starting on Friday, October 13. Saturday is a star-filled day with multiple sessions...some are open registration and others are pre-purchased tickets only.

All tickets and registration are online only at www.nightskyfestival.org. Add-ons such as VIP Parking, astrophotography workshop, solar printing art workshop and panning for gold 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. At Night Sky Festival we try to make all reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities.

Tickets go on sale beginning July 19, 2023. Tickets are limited, so get yours quickly...they do sell out!

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK T-SHIRTS will only be sold **online** until midnight, Thursday, September 14. After that, shirts will be available on the day of the event during registration at the Luckie Park Activity Center on a first-come, first-served basis until supplies run out. Adult sizes are \$25, youth sizes are \$20. **Order your shirts now, as you purchase your tickets!**

REGISTRATION & STAR-FUN

Saturday, October 14 | Noon – 8:30 pm | Luckie Park Activity Center

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 Luckie Park Activity Center in Twentynine Palms. While you are there, have some star-fun at our new space photo booth and get creative with youth crafts (from noon to 5 pm). Visit the information tables for International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) and other supporting organizations. These activities are FREE.



SUN PRINTING “STARRY SKIES” ART WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 14 | 10:00 am – 2 pm | \$50 per participant | at Sky’s The Limit Observatory

Photogenic drawing, aka photogram, is a centuries old method of creating a photographic image without using a camera. Objects are placed onto sensitized paper and exposed to the natural UV light of the sun. In this introductory workshop, we will make small sun prints on professional artist grade papers precoated with potassium ferricyanide and ferric ammonium citrate, the two compounds that make up cyanotype process.

Participants may make up to (4) 5x7 prints. One of which will be a small sun print for a collaborative installation, assembled by Diana of **Mojave Light Studio**, which will be on display publicly and then auctioned off to raise funds for **JTREE** and **Sky’s the Limit** educational programs. You get to be part of that project!



PANNING FOR GOLD

Saturday, October 14 | 9:00 am – noon | \$10 per miner | at Sky’s The Limit Observatory

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 has provided 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 welcomed to give it a try.*”

ORRERY, YOUTH SOLAR CRAFTS & SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAILS

Saturday, October 14 | 9:00 - 11 am | FREE | at Sky’s The Limit Observatory

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

The morning program held at Sky’s The Limit offers “self-guided” short hikes on easy trails highlighting the plants, animals, and geology of our special environment. Youth can participate in the youth solar crafts group. This morning program will also feature 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. Order your glow-in-the-dark t-shirts online NOW; after midnight on September 14 they will ONLY be available at the registration check-in at the Luckie Park Activity Center, first come, first served until they are sold out.

AFTERNOON ASTRONOMY PRESENTATIONS

These lectures will be held in Patriotic Hall at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. Lectures are free but sign up early since space is limited. These lectures have been quite popular!

Zerxes Bhadha | *Preserving the Night Sky*

Saturday, October 14 | 1-2 pm

Join Zerxes Bhadha for a journey into a naturally dark night sky, free from light pollution. Discover the importance of the night sky to humans and our fellow plants and animals, discover the ways Joshua Tree National Park helps to protect the night sky, and how you can work to protect it in your own homes and communities. Xerxes is a recent UCLA graduate in Astrophysics and former NPS Scientists in Parks Night Skies intern.

Rob Zelleem | *Exoplanets*

Saturday, October 14 | 2:15-3:15 pm

Join Rob Zelleem, exoplanet astronomer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to learn about his work on ground- and space-based observations of the atmospheres of exoplanets, planets outside of our Solar System. Rob is an Exoplanet Astronomer, JPL/NASA!

Stefanie Milam | *New Discoveries and Update from the NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)*

Saturday, October 14 | 3:30-4:30 pm

Dr. Stefanie Milam is Deputy Project Scientist for Planetary Science, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Join Dr. Milam, a Planetary Scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland for a journey into the latest developments and discoveries by the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the most powerful telescope ever launched into space!

NIGHT SKY STAR PARTY – “NIGHT SKY PASS”

Saturday, October 14 | 7 – 11 pm | \$65 (adults), \$35 (6-12), 5 & under are free

With your Night Sky Star Pass purchase, 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. This year's special musical guest is Jessica Fichot. www.jessicasongs.com

**Included with your pass are activities at Sky's The Limit Observatory on Saturday morning between 9 am and 11 am as noted above. Panning for Gold with First Class Miners would be a separate ticket, also noted above.*

VIP PARKING | \$50: Avoid waits, come & go as you please...purchase your VIP Parking ticket to park right on the Sky's The Limit campus. Only 50 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 Activity 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. Wheelchair users and special needs guests may be dropped off at the accessible route by companions who will then park in a VIP parking 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 your arrival and departure during the evening. Shuttle service will run approximately every 20 minutes; vans approximately every 40 minutes. **VIP parking passes are ONLY available for pre-paid purchase online.**

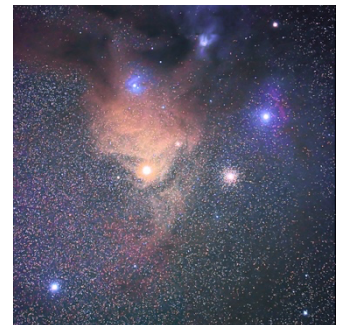
NIGHT SKY ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Friday, October 13 | 5:00 – 10:00 pm | Cap Rock in Joshua Tree National Park

Saturday, October 14 | 9:30 – noon | Patriotic Hall at Luckie Park (post-photography)

\$150 per person | Limited to 10 Participants (minimum age 16)

Welcome to the Night Sky Astrophotography Workshop! Your evening will be spent photographing the dark night skies with educator, avid-hiker, marathoner, and photographer Dean Delgado. Dean will make Cap Rock inside Joshua Tree National Park his classroom where you capture a unique vision of the dark Night Skies over Joshua Tree National Park. Astrophotography, also known as astronomical imaging, is photography of astronomical objects, celestial events, and areas of the night sky.



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.
- Bring your own snacks.

TELESCOPE CLINIC, 2ND YEAR

Friday, October 13 | 5:00 pm | Sky's The Limit Observatory

\$30 per telescope | Limited to 18 Participants (Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Minimum age is 12.)

Spend a long evening under the awesome desert sky, working with mentors to sharpen your telescope skills.

Have an old telescope gathering dust in your garage? Have a new telescope that's challenging to set up and align? Thinking about buying a telescope and want to learn about different types?



This telescope clinic is for people who have a new – or old – telescope they would like to use but do not know how to set it up or operate it.

Mentors will be on hand beginning at 5:30 pm on Friday, October 13, 2023 to answer questions and assist with assembly, alignment, and operation. Newly mentored aspiring astronomers can then enjoy the night sky as dark consumes the skies and planets reveal themselves on this very special evening.

WHAT TO BRING: Your telescope equipment, a red light, your drinking water, and a light jacket if you think you might need one.