

SPOC Star Party Safety Guide

revised 03/07/10

Telescope Operations during star parties require great care to ensure the public safety, and the following guidelines should be observed at all times.

1. The public is prohibited from entering the observatory bay while the telescope and auxiliary equipment in the bay are being readied for star party operations.
2. There should be a minimum of two (2) SPOC Operators in each scope bay at all times during a public star party.
3. Operators should restrict the number of individuals entering the bay at any one time for the purpose of viewing through the telescope to four (4).
4. Operators must have sufficient red light illumination of the bay to allow clear perception of the telescope and auxiliary equipment.
5. If the Operators want to bring more individuals into the bay for the purpose of pointing out features of the observatory the red lights need to be brought up to a high light level. After the tour revert to rule #3.

6. Whenever the telescope or ladder are moved the individuals within the bay should be directed by the Operator to a safe location to stand until the equipment is properly set for the next object.
7. Operators need to be especially vigilant with children to ensure that they do not get in a high risk situation around the telescopes. Parents or guardians need to be advised to hold on to their children at all times when on the ladder.
8. Operators should use the provided cones & rope as a means of funneling the crowd into the observatory.
9. Periodically announce to the incoming public what is being observed so they do not waste their time waiting to see something they have already seen.
10. If people with physical disabilities cannot access the eyepiece, courteously make them aware of our ADA Scope.