

Rules of Use for MAS Star Parties at LLCC

January 18, 2026

Minnesota Astronomical Society (MAS) members are allowed to use Long Lake Conservation Center (LLCC) facilities during scheduled MAS star parties provided the following rules are adhered to, per the legal agreement between MAS and LLCC.

1. LLCC Site Availability:

Only MAS members are allowed to use LLCC facilities, and only during officially scheduled MAS star parties. Mid-week observing at LLCC, outside of scheduled MAS star parties, is not permitted.

2. Communication

Registration for LLCC star parties, lodging requests, and announcements will be communicated through the MAS Forum.

3. Electricity on Observing Field:

The observing field will have 120 VAC electricity available for MAS members to use during scheduled MAS star parties. Exterior electrical outlets are located on the north and south walls of the observatory shed. Please bring your own extension cord.

4. LLCC Campus Lighting:

a) During MAS star parties LLCC has agreed to turn off white exterior lights. LLCC has installed red lights on buildings and walkways throughout their campus, for use during MAS events.

b) On rare occasions, when other groups are using the LLCC campus during scheduled MAS star party weekends, LLCC may decide that they need to leave exterior white lights on for safety reasons. MAS respects LLCC's decisions regarding campus lighting and safety.

5. Lodging:

- a) Bunkrooms, located in Marcum House or North Star Lodge, are provided for the overnight accommodation of star party attendees free of charge. Rooms are heated and include access to a toilet, sink, and shower.
- b) Lodging recommended for anyone traveling long distances to LLCC (e.g. Twin Cities).
- c) Lodging is arranged through the MAS Forum. Find the star party listing on the MAS Forum and carefully follow the instructions in the listing. Step 1 (registration): indicate your interest in attending the scheduled star party. Step 2 (confirmation): the day before the star party begins, confirm your attendance and request lodging. Before you head up to LLCC, check the MAS Forum for room assignments and important announcements.
- d) LLCC will provide up to three rooms. Each room contains four bunkbeds. Allocation of rooms depends on attendance and typically includes one men's bunkhouse, one women's bunkhouse, and one family bunkhouse. Room assignment information will be provided in the MAS Forum.
- e) Bunks have only a bare mattress. Attendees need to bring their own sleeping bag, bedding, pillows, towels, and toiletries.
- f) RV and tent camping is not permitted on LLCC campus.

6. Vehicle Use:

- a) Driving on campus absolutely prohibited whenever students are present, in which case vehicles are restricted to the observing field and the adjacent bus/overflow parking lot. This may occur on Friday afternoons when school groups are still present on campus. Driving restrictions will be communicated via an announcement in the MAS Forum.
- b) Parking is permitted on the observing field during star parties, except when the ground is soft or muddy, in which case parking will be restricted to the bus/overflow parking lot immediately west of the observing field. Parking restrictions will be communicated via an announcement in the MAS Forum.
- c) Parking placards may be required when other groups are on campus. If so, placards will be provided by an MAS/LLCC committee member for MAS members to place inside of the front windshield of their vehicles when parked on campus. If parking placards are required, an announcement will be made in the MAS Forum.

7. Alcohol Use

Consumption of alcohol on LLCC campus is prohibited.

8. Smoking:

Smoking is prohibited inside buildings. Outdoors, smoking must be at least 25 feet from any building and not visible to children on-site. A garbage container is located inside the observatory for disposal of cigarette butts.

9. Room Clean-up:

Please leave your room cleaner than you found it. Remove trash and clean up spills. Sweep the floor with a broom, if available, before leaving. Close all windows and doors. Turn off all lights.