

FAR SIGHTED



Nebraska Star Party
August 1st - 6th - Merritt Reservoir



NSP 28

We Thought We'd Give it Another Try!

At this time, the status of the COVID-19 virus remains to be seen for the end of the summer. Despite this uncertainty, we're on schedule to hold the 28th annual Nebraska Star Party during the week of August 1st - 6th, 2021. It's hoped that vaccines, masks, and social distancing will have greatly reduced the risks associated with large group gatherings by then, and we can proceed to host a Star Party *par excellence!*

Of course, this depends upon many things, including the then-current guidance of the Valentine School Board, the Cherry County Health Department, Nebraska Game & Parks, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). During NSP, all of their recommendations will be followed to the letter.

Right now we're planning to hold our Speaker Program, Kids' Program, Field Schools, Swap Meet, and Astrophotography Contest, along with catered meals on-site and our T-Shirt sales, all as normal with minimal changes. Now, any of these may be curtailed, but one thing we *do* know: we *will* have really dark skies and terrific viewing! With your eyes alone you can make out planets, meteors, galaxies, and nebulae. When you add an optical aid, such as binoculars or a telescope, all of space opens up for you.

So begin planning your vacation with us. As usual, lodging will be available at hotels in Valentine (27 miles to the north), tent and RV camping will be available within the Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area, and B&B facilities are nearby. We invite you to visit the NSP website at NebraskaStarParty.org for more information. And you can take care of your entire registration online as well! But be sure to register before July 1st to save on the already low cost of registration!

NSP Activities

- Learn about telescopes, binoculars, and viewing in our unique Field School.
- View the Universe through a wide variety of optical instruments.
- Earn certificates for completing one or more of our Observing Challenges.
- Enjoy daytime recreation on the water, in town, or at surrounding attractions.
- Submit a photograph for our Astrophotography Contest.
- Work on the Astronomical League's Club observations under ideal dark skies.
- Buy or sell surplus equipment during our Swap Meet.
- Get a special price on new gear from one of our attending Vendors.
- And if you're lucky you might win one of our valuable Door Prizes.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

BASIC INFO – Register online at www.NebraskaStarParty.org or print out and fill in the Pre-Registration form on the next page with the names of all in your party, along with the requested contact information. Cost of NSP is only \$50 per adult and \$15 for children 5-12 years old if this form is **postmarked by July 1st**. If postmarked **after** July 1st, the cost is \$60 per adult and the cost for children 5-12 is \$20. Children under 5 attend for free.

MEALS – Order evening meals in advance, as state laws prohibit us from taking meal payments on-site. Tuesday's meal is included with your registration. Wednesday's & Friday's meals are on your own. Adult meals are \$12, and children 10 and under can eat for \$8. Prepayment for meals is refundable in case of cancellation prior to July 1st. ***This year, be prepared to take food back to your own telescope after you pick up your food at the NSP tent.***

T-SHIRTS – The popular Tee-Shirts bearing this year's theme are available with your registration. Specify the quantity of each size of shirt desired. Shirt sizes S through XL are \$15, while XXL and larger sizes are \$18 or \$20 each. Specified sizes will be honored **only if ordered by July 1st**. No children's sizes will be available.

RESERVATIONS – Please indicate the number of seats in the optional NSP Field School to reserve at \$10 for an individual or \$20 per family, and the number of children from your party aged 5 - 12 who will participate at no cost in Wednesday's Childrens' Program. Mentors are also needed to assist the instructors of the Childrens' Program in exchange for Community Service credit. Indicate if you have teenagers in 8th - 12th grade who would like to assist.

STATE PARK ENTRY PERMIT – All vehicles entering park property must display a Nebraska State Park Entry Permit. This year, permits for Nebraska licensed cars cost \$30 annually. For out-of-state licensed cars the cost is \$45. Annual permits are available for both out-of-state and in-state residents through NSP's pre-registration process.

TOTAL – Add up the costs for attendance, meals, Field School, T-Shirts, and Park Entry Permits, then be sure to read, sign, and date the liability release portion of the Pre-Registration form. To help us gather data, also please circle the dates your party expects to arrive and depart NSP and the type of lodging you anticipate.

THE FINE PRINT – Registration and Park Entry Permit fees are NORMALLY non-refundable. However, this year ALL FEES WILL BE REFUNDABLE to those who are unable to attend due to COVID-19. Mail payment prior to July 1st for pre-registration savings. Confirmation will be sent via email or post, along with detailed information to help you plan your trip to NSP.

MAIL – You can register online with your Credit Card at www.NebraskaStarParty.org, or enclose the form on the next page, including the signed liability release and your check for the total, **payable to NEBRASKA STAR PARTY**, and mail to:

NEBRASKA STAR PARTY, INC.
c/o Eric Balcom
P.O. Box 540307
Omaha, NE 68154-0307

Abbreviated Schedule of Events

Registration and Check-In will be found at Boardman Campground, just north of the Observing Field. Otherwise the center of activity for NSP events such as Swap Meets and Meal Service will be held beneath the cover of the Big NSP Tent located at the entrance to Snake Campground. It's hoped that Field School will be held in the large building at Merritt Resort, five miles north of the Observing Field, and Wednesday's programs will be held at the high school in Valentine.

SUNDAY . . . Registration & Check-In, Optional Dinner.
MONDAY . . . Registration & Check-In, Field School, Optional Dinner.
TUESDAY . . . Registration & Check-In, Field School, FREE "Cattle Country" Hamburger Dinner.
WEDNESDAY. (All at Valentine High School) Registration & Check-In, Field School, Swap Meet, Speaker Program, Children's Program, Dinner on your own.
THURSDAY . . . Brewers' Niobrara Canoe or Tube Float, Optional Dinner.
FRIDAY . . . Brewers' Niobrara Canoe or Tube Float, Dinner on your own, Public Star Party @ 9:00 pm.

Door prize drawings may be held at any of the NSP-hosted events throughout the week. so be sure not to miss any of them. A more detailed schedule will be included with your pre-registration confirmation.

Bring Your Appetite

We're delighted to serve optional on-site meals for Sunday, Monday, and Thursday evenings at 12 dollars for adults, and 8 dollars for children 10 and under. Tuesday's meal is on us!

Sunday – Barbecue Chicken.
Monday – Barbecued Roast Beef on Bun.
Tuesday – NSP's Treat! "Cattle Country" Burger.
Wednesday – Following Speaker Programs, evening meal is on your own.
Thursday – Deli Sandwich on Bun.
Friday – Prior to the Public Star Party evening meal is on your own.

Name: _____ Adult Child

Partner: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

* Please indicate by circling the date your party might arrive:

PRIOR TO	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS
8/1	8/1	8/2	8/3	8/4	8/5

And the date your party might leave:

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	AFTER
8/2	8/3	8/4	8/5	8/6	8/6

And whether you're likely to lodge in:

a Campground a Motel/B&B an RV Park

*(For statistical purposes only. Does not commit to, nor affect registration, nor constitute a reservation.)

**--- IMPORTANT ---
PLEASE SIGN & DATE BELOW
WHEN RETURNING YOUR PRE-REGISTRATION**

Nebraska Star Party Liability Release

By registering for, or participating in, the Nebraska Start Party I hereby affirm that I and my family release Nebraska Star Party, Inc., Organizers, and Sponsors of the Nebraska Star Party (hereinafter referred to as the "Providers") from any and all injuries or damages received or sustained arising out of or occasioned by the acts of the Providers in the execution or performance of the Nebraska Star Party.

I further waive any claim that I, my heirs, assigns, or personal representatives, may have against the Providers for all accidents, injuries or losses I may incur while participating in the Nebraska Star Party. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Providers for any costs incurred (including attorneys fees) in defending any action brought against the Providers as a result of my participation in the Nebraska Star Party.

My signature upon this form also indicates agreement and acceptance on behalf of all the attendees registering on this form, and for all minor children attending while in my care. Nebraska Star Party, Inc. is a non-profit corporation registered in the state of Nebraska.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

NSP 28 Pre-Registration Form

Pre-Registration Cost - *IF MAILED BY JULY 1st:*

of Adults # _____ x \$50 = _____

of Kids (5 - 12 years) # _____ x \$15 = _____

Registration Cost - *IF MAILED AFTER JULY 1st:*

of Adults # _____ x \$60 = _____

of Kids (5 - 12 years) # _____ x \$20 = _____

Order Optional Meals

Sunday Night • BBQ Chicken, sides & drinks

Adult Dinners # _____ x 12.00 = _____

Kids 10 & under # _____ x 8.00 = _____

Monday Night • BBQ Roast Beef on bun, sides & drinks

Adult Dinners # _____ x 12.00 = _____

Kids 10 & under # _____ x 8.00 = _____

Thursday Night • Deli Sandwich, sides & drinks

Adult Dinners # _____ x 12.00 = _____

Kids 10 & under # _____ x 8.00 = _____

Reserve Space: Field School & Childrens Program

Please reserve _____ seats in NSP's Beginners' Field School.

Individual @ 10.00 = _____

OR Family @ 20.00 = _____

Please reserve _____ seats in NSP's Advanced Field School.

Individual @ 10.00 = _____

Please reserve _____ places in NSP's free Childrens Program for my children aged 5 - 12.

Order a Nebraska State Park Entry Permit

A permit is required. Out-of-state \$45 = _____

In-state \$30 = _____

Order NSPT-Shirts

Adult Sizes • Quantity x Price ea. = subtotal

Small # . . . x 15.00 = _____

Medium . . . # . . . x 15.00 = _____

Large # . . . x 15.00 = _____

X-Large . . . # . . . x 15.00 = _____

XX-Large . . # . . . x 18.00 = _____

XXX-Large . # . . . x 18.00 = _____

4X-Large . . # . . . x 20.00 = _____

Grand Total \$ _____