



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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Grand Canyon News Release

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Astronomers Present Free Star Programs at Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon, Ariz. - The 17th annual Grand Canyon Star Party will be held from Saturday, June 9 through Saturday, June 16, 2007 on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, and from Saturday, June 9 through Wednesday, June 13, 2007 on the North Rim. This event is sponsored by the National Park Service and the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, with funding from the Grand Canyon Association. Amateur astronomers from across the country will volunteer their expertise. Free star programs will be offered, and numerous telescopes will be set up to view planets, star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae at night and the sun by day. Grand Canyon is one of the best night sky observing sites in the United States, so weather permitting, expect spectacular views of the universe!

On the South Rim, events include a slide show nightly at 8:00 p.m. next to Yavapai Observation Station, followed by telescope viewing in the Yavapai parking lot and the dirt lot below it. Since there will be very few parking spaces, plan to arrive by the park's free shuttle bus, which runs until 11:00 p.m. For a comfortable spot at the slide shows, arrive early and bring a folding chair. Or arrive any time after dark for telescope viewing, which continues well into the night.

On the North Rim, telescopes will be set up on the porch of the Grand Canyon Lodge each evening. In addition to nightly sky watching, look for telescopes by day and check the bulletin board at the North Rim Visitor Center for additional events, such as star talks.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

When traveling on the South Rim, it is best to find a parking space and utilize the free shuttle bus to all points of interest in the Grand Canyon Village area and along scenic Hermit Road, South Kaibab Trailhead and Yaki Point. If you plan to stay overnight at Grand Canyon National Park, plan your visit well in advance. Visit our official website at www.nps.gov/grca, or to receive a free Grand Canyon Trip Planner, call 928-638-7888.

For additional information on the Grand Canyon Star Party, contact Marker Marshall, Park Naturalist, at (928) 638-7830.

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