



Rules and Guidelines

Oregon Star Party Rules/Guidelines – UPDATED June 2, 2025

In order to make everyone's time at Indian Trail Spring safe and comfortable, we ask participants to review and respect the rules for this event. Oregon Star Party is located on Forest Service lands, all attendees, vendors, volunteers need to adhere to conditions from the US Forest Service for using the public lands.

The hill and prairie that the site is located on is treeless, so there is limited shade. It can be hot during the day and mild to cold during the night. However, there have been monsoon type downpours, lightning, and dust devils powerful enough to lift tents, canopies, ice chests and telescopes.

Fire - Fire safety is our NUMBER ONE concern.

In addition to the USFS Rules OSP requires that everyone must adhere to the following:

- Due to the high fire danger every year, smoking (including E-cigarettes) is permitted only in an enclosed vehicle/trailer.
- Forest Service Regulations require that you bring
 1. a shovel
 2. an axe
 3. An extra five gallons of water dedicated for fire suppression.
- **NO CAMPFIRE OR OPEN FLAMES - This includes open fire pits or fire boxes.**
NO CHARCOAL GRILLS OR FIRE PITS OF ANY KIND OR ANY SPARK EMITTING GRILLS I.E. TRAEGER ARE NOT ALLOWED.
Gas stoves and gas BBQs allowed, with off/on switch AND set up on a table.

US Forest Service Fire Safety Rules

In agreement with the forest service, OSP will be allowed to operate within the rules agreed to by OSP and the forest service.

1. If we have a fire emergency, we will notify participants to 'shelter in place' have your shovel and extra water handy. We will move all once in/once out campers up to the 800/802 road within 150 feet of the gravel road.
2. Do not allow chains from trailers to drag on the ground as you drive through the area. Secure them short enough. Dragging chains could create sparks.
3. **IF** we need to evacuate and cannot evacuate out the 4110 road, we will follow a backup evacuation route. This will be **Road 800 (east) to Road 4240, (north) to Road 42, (east) on Road 42 to SE Beaver Creek Road, then to highway 380 near Paulina.**
4. Parking: If not on the gravel road, parking must be on bare dirt/road surfaces. Do not park on any vegetation that touches the exhaust system of any vehicle.

US Forest Service Generator Policy

The Generator policy is dependent on United States Forest Service fire restrictions. As in the past, the Oregon Star Party will not know the decision on the use of generators until 1 week prior to the event. The decision is based on several factors: the dryness of the forest area around Indian Trail Spring, the 14 day forecast prior to OSP, whether they have closed forest to the public and/or if level IV restrictions are in place.

- Generators must meet all US Forest Service requirements and are permitted to operate from Noon to 7 PM.
- Generators that cannot be secured in a truck or camper bed, and must be set on the ground must be set on a 8x8 foot fire resistant tarp when operating.
- Generator quiet hours are from 7:00am to 10:00am. NO generator usage allowed.

- Generator policy is subject to change at ANY TIME. Check the reader board outside the Operations tent at the event.

If Generators are NOT ALLOWED:

- By order of the USFS generators are NOT ALLOWED except for Vendors and Medical and only by special permit.
- Service providers (food and OSP operations) are permitted between 8:00 am and 2:00 am. They must be in approved locations and have approved sound baffling around the generator.
- Medical generators are only allowed in the RV approved areas next to the graveled roads and only to extent as needed to recharge medical equipment and only by special permit.

Camping

- RVs and trailers are allowed along the GRAVELED road (800 Rd. and 802 Rd.) only and must be set up within 100 feet of the center of the roadway.
- The area down in the gully is permanently closed to ALL camping due to USFS riparian protection.
- A “no travel” restriction will apply and continue 48 hours after a rain event. This means keeping motorized travel to existing open graveled roads. Additionally, the authorized, ungraveled road will not have authorized motorized use during this time. In addition, the designated flagged routes to the “Once In Once Out” area, will not have authorized motorized use during this time.
- Tents, van conversions, and tent trailers are allowed along the graveled roads and in the trees. If camping in the trees attendees are allowed to drive into the trees and park their car for the duration of their stay and then leave (Once in, Once Out).
- People may camp on the telescope fields but again no vehicles on the telescope fields. Warn campers that there will be many observers up until dawn on the main telescope fields and will be talking, moving ladders and telescopes.
- There will be designated routes approved in advanced by an authorized officer to the “Once In Once Out”, area. Please coordinate with the special use administrator when setting up and flagging the allowed driving routes to these areas.
- However, other restrictions may be in place for where vehicles are allowed on site as needed or required by the USFS (See Fire Restrictions and Generator Restrictions)
- There are no options for RV wastewater disposal. Plan water usage accordingly.
- When using a propane camp stove, we require them to be placed on a fire proof surface or table.

Driving

- All vehicles must display the OSP Parking Permit.
- Speed limit on site is 5 mph!
- All types of vehicles are welcome at the observing site.
- When possible disable all vehicle lights
- Vehicles may drive in and out of the observing area between 10 AM and 8 PM.
- Late arrives to the star party are asked to camp in the late night arrival area east of the entry gate.
- NO VEHICLE TRAFFIC AT NIGHT (except for emergencies).
- No-driving across the open areas except to setup camp or telescopes.
- OSP recommends that attendees park their vehicles along the 800 and 802 Road if they intend to move the vehicles during the event.

General Astronomy Guidelines

- Quiet hours at the campsites are from 3 am until 10 am. Please respect your neighbors' sleeping and observing habits. Many people stay up all night observing and could use some quiet in the morning.
- The number one rule: don't use light unless you absolutely need it.

- Flashlights should only be used with red filters or film.
- Laptop must be covered and the screens must be shielded with red plastic.
- No white light after sundown, except for emergencies.
- Either disable your vehicle's interior/dome and trunk lights or cover them with red tape.
- Use only dim red light inside tents and RV's at night.
- Don't leave lights on when you're not using them.
- All vehicles (except in the late arrival area) must have all lights completely shielded. No white light (not even faint white light) must be visible from the outside of the vehicle after dark. Those vehicles in the late arrival area must keep light usage to a minimum.
- The use of laser pointers is prohibited (except by OSP Committee for the ANY OSP sanctioned event or gathering).
- Be sure that any entertainment is not audible to your neighbors. Music must be limited to your campsite.

Pets

- Pets are allowed at OSP as long as they do not cause any threat to others or interfere with quiet hours.
- Pets must be on a leash and under owner control when outside at all times.
- Pet owners are responsible for the behavior and actions of their pets at all times.
- Dog owners must clean up after their pets. Remember that people are walking around the grounds at night and are not able to easily see where they are stepping.

Water

- Potable water is NOT available on site so you will need to bring bottled water along with you for drinking or cooking.
- The closest potable water sources are available at:
 - An option for small containers is at Deep Creek CG, located off Highway 42 a few miles east of the junction with the 4240 road
 - in front of the Big Summit Ranger Station (Yes it's the water coming out of the hose). This is approximately 25 miles from OSP (1 hour).
- **For emergency purposes ONLY** drinking water can be found at the Information Tent

Trash

- IF YOU PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT - The Oregon Star Party Committee will be enforcing the Forest Service rule regarding "If you pack it in, you must pack it out." There is no dumping of any garbage except in the garbage dumpster. Please compact your trash to the smallest possible size. Please do not put your personal garbage in the caterer's garbage cans. Do not put any garbage in the porta-pots.
- Trash can be placed in the centralize trash bin on the 800 road.

Quiet hours: 3 am – 10 am for any noise louder than normal conversation (exception made for OSP operational activities like food service, main tent and first aid activities).

Please Above All: Be courteous to all your neighbors near and far. Please treat the land with respect. And above all, have fun and enjoy the skies.