

Camping at the Green Bank Observatory

The Green Bank Observatory will allow campsites to be established near the airstrip, henceforth known as the Starfield Campground. Camping will be restricted to the designated campground area. Maps can be obtained upon arrival at the Green Bank Science Center. Groups will have access to bathrooms at the Green Bank Science Center. The group leader will be given a card to obtain access to the Science Center after hours.

Rates and Meals

The camping charge is \$5 per individual per day with a minimum of \$150 per day. A \$50 deposit is also required (see Deposit Requirements below). Meals are available in the cafeteria for a flat rate of (a) breakfast - \$6, (b) lunch - \$8 and (c) dinner - \$9 for student groups and (a) breakfast - \$7, (b) lunch - \$9, and (c) dinner - \$12 for adult groups.

Reservations

Campground reservations may not be made until the educational activities have been requested, approved and scheduled. Contact Sue Ann Heatherly (304-456-2209, [email](mailto:sueann@nrao.edu)) to arrange for these activities.

Once these activities have been scheduled the coordinator for the group must make reservations for the campground. This is done by contacting Kristine Sharp – krsharp@nrao.edu

Reservations must be made at least 30 days in advance of the scheduled activities but should be completed as soon as the specific activities have been arranged.

Once the coordinator has completed the reservations form he/she must send the \$50 deposit (see Deposit Requirements below) along with a copy of the *signed* [Deposit Form](#) to Kristine Sharp (PO Box 2, Green Bank, WV 24944).

Cancellation of the campground reservation is possible and must be made at least **two** weeks in advance of the activities date to avoid a penalty (see Deposit Requirements below).

Camping Requirements

- Chaperone/leaders are required to be responsible for the group behavior, security, and safety. Remember some individuals on site are likely to be observing at very late hours.
- Groups will provide their own tents, sleeping bags, pillows, towels, laundry, and toiletry needs (soap and toothpaste).
- The group is responsible for ensuring that the campground is left in a clean state. This includes the removal of debris from the fire ring. The Observatory will provide garbage bags which can be obtained at the Green Bank Science Center. Bagged garbage can be deposited in the large container beside the barn or brought up to the science center.

- The group is responsible for ensuring that the Science Center Bathrooms are maintained in a clean state and are ready for use by the public. Bathroom cleaning supplies will be available at the Science Center.
- All fires and cooking must be confined to the fire ring located in the camp ground. No other fires are allowed.
- No glass containers are allowed in the campground.
- All fires must be out (cold) before leaving the site each day.
- Deadwood can be collected on site. Do not bring your own firewood.

Deposit Requirements

A \$50 deposit and a [Deposit Form](#) signed by the chaperone or leader is required to confirm the reservation (without the **signed deposit form** and **\$50 deposit** there is **NO** reservation!). The signed Deposit Form acknowledges the responsibility of the chaperone and individuals. The deposit will be returned in full after the activities have ended unless:

- A reservation cancellation is received with less than 2 weeks notice prior to the start of the activity start date. The deposit will be *forfeited* in full.
- The group fails to properly clean the campground or bathrooms at the conclusion of their stay. The group will forfeit some or all of their deposit.
- The group leaves the condition of premises in an unreasonably damaged state at the conclusion of their stay. The group will *forfeit* some or all of their deposit.
- Key card must be returned.

Radio Frequency Interference

All visitors should be aware that radio emissions from common devices such as cell phones, portable computers and other appliances can be detrimental to the on-going observations with the GBT. There are [restrictions](#) on the use of such devices on the GBO property.

No vehicles may go to the campground site without prior permission. Permission will be granted only in cases of medical need. In these cases, GBO requires that vehicles brought to the campground either stay there for the duration or be moved, after a campsite is established, to the upper parking lot. If vehicular access to the campground is needed throughout the stay, arrangements must be made in advance with the GBO and will again only be granted in the case of medical need.

Contacts

Scheduling of educational activities, Sue Ann Heatherly (304-456-2209), [email](#)
Reservations information, Kristine Sharp (304-456-2227), [email](#)