



Camping at the Green

Bank Observatory

October, 2023

The Green Bank Observatory (GBO) will allow campsites to be established near- but never on- the airstrip, henceforth known as the Comet Campground. Camping will be restricted to the designated Comet 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 key card for access to the Science Center after hours.

Comet Campground Rate:

The camping charge is \$5 per individual per day with a minimum of \$150 per day. A \$100 deposit is required (see Deposit Requirements below).

Meal rates:

Meals are available in the cafeteria for a flat rate of (a) breakfast - \$8, (b) lunch - \$10 and (c) dinner - \$12 for student groups and (a) breakfast - \$8, (b) lunch - \$10, and (c) dinner - \$15 for adult groups.

Reservation Requests:

Reservation requests may be made by accessing the Reservations Form on the Internet starting at the link. <https://reservations.greenbankobservatory.org/app>. As part of this request you will select educational activities.

Reservation confirmation can ONLY occur AFTER the educational activities have been approved.

Book early! Our weekends are in high demand. Please be patient with our scheduling process. Once the group coordinator has completed the reservations form he/she must send the \$100 deposit (see Deposit Requirements below), a signed copy of the Deposit Form, and if applicable, a Tax Exempt Certificate to Mark Barnes. Deposits are due within one week of the approval date of your reservation.

The group coordinator needs to confirm the following:

- a. number of students
- b. number of non-students
- c. arrival date and time
- d. departure date and time
- e. number and type of meals required, and the number and type of dietary restrictions.

The coordinator will also need to:

- a. furnish GBO a tax exemption certificate (if tax-exempt)
- b. provide GBO with an invoice mailing address

Cancellation of the Comet Campground reservation is possible and must be made at least ONE WEEK in advance of the activities date to avoid a penalty (see Deposit Requirements below).

We also reserve the right to cancel a reservation.

- Chaperone/leaders are required to be responsible for the group's behavior, security, and safety.
- 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 Comet Campground. No other fires are allowed.
- No glass containers are allowed in the Comet 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 \$100 deposit and a Deposit Form signed by the chaperone or leader is required to confirm the reservation (without the **signed deposit form** and **\$100 deposit** there is **NO** reservation!). The signed Deposit Form acknowledges the responsibility of the chaperone and individuals. The deposit will be credited to your final invoice after the activities have ended unless:

- A reservation cancellation is received with less than 1 week notice prior to the start of the activity start date. The deposit will be *forfeited* in full.
- The group fails to properly clean the Comet 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.
- The group fails to return all keys and key cards. The group will *forfeit* some or all of their deposit.

Radio Frequency Interference:

All visitors should be aware that radio emissions from common devices such as cell phones, portable computers, fitbits and other appliances can be detrimental to the on-going observations with the Green Bank Telescope. There are [restrictions](#) on the use of such devices on 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 Comet 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 GBO staff and will again, only be granted in the case of medical need.