

CAS Member Public Stargazing Opportunities in Flagstaff

Flagstaff has the unique location as a Dark Sky City for astronomical viewing and a rich history of astronomy and science. Throughout the year, there are several events in Flagstaff in which CAS members can participate in as either telescope hosts or volunteers. These events will be listed on the [Calendar page on the CAS website](#).

Typically, as a telescope host, a CAS member should:

- Provide and set up their own telescope, eyepieces, filters, etc., or coordinate with another CAS member to support them.
- Be able to point your scope to an interesting target in the sky and talk about the target with the public.
- Provide support information, e.g., planisphere, Moon maps, astrophotography images, etc.
- Have a small stool handy for our junior telescope observers.
- If the event is during the day, a dedicated solar telescope or telescope with fixed solar filter is required.
- Check with the Event Coordinator on the use of Astronomy Laser Pointers and follow all laser pointer guidelines.
- Some events restrict telescopes to ONLY OPTICAL TELESCOPES. Check with the event coordinator to see if SMART TELESCOPES are permitted.

1. FLAGSTAFF STAR PARTY - Flagstaff Dark Sky Coalition

DATE: Check flagstaffstarparty.org to confirm date.

LOCATION: Buffalo Park, 2400 N Gemini Road

Telescope viewing under night-sky conditions. The event typically has music, food and presentations about the night sky. This event is weather dependent and may be postponed or cancelled.

REGISTRATION: CAS members who want to participate as volunteers or telescope hosts need to apply directly with Flagstaff Dark Sky Coalition. Details include:

- You can be a volunteer or telescope host for one, two or all three nights. You need to be at Buffalo Park by 4:00 PM. The event lasts each day until 10 PM.
- There are no power hookups for telescopes, battery power for your telescopes only.
- You can bring your vehicle to the telescope area to unload and pack up after 10 PM.
- In the past, this event was limited to OPTICAL TELESCOPES ONLY.

2. LOWELL OBSERVATORY PUBLIC VIEWING

DATE: Typically several times a year. Check CAS website to confirm dates.

LOCATION: Lowell Observatory, 1400 West Mars Hill Road (Near the Giovale Open Deck Observatory (GODO Deck))

CAS has a long history of collaboration with Lowell Observatory. Monthly General Meetings are held at the Lowell Hendricks Center. Several times each year, CAS members supplement the six Lowell telescopes on the GODO with CAS telescopes. This event is weather dependent and may be cancelled.

REGISTRATION: CAS President Ernie Webb will notify members on the Lowell events and coordinate the CAS response to Lowell on the number of telescope hosts

Details include:

- Lowell staff will instruct you on where to set up your equipment so as not to interfere with the flow of public traffic.
- There are no power hookups for telescope, battery power for your telescopes only.
- You can bring your vehicle close to the GODO, but you may need a cart to move your equipment to GODO.
- Lowell staff will instruct you on the use of astronomy of laser pointers.

3. INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK - Flagstaff Dark Sky Coalition

DATE: Check flagstaffdarkskies.org for dates.

LOCATION: Multiple locations throughout the Flagstaff area. Stargazing events may include:

- Downtown Heritage Square
- The Museum of Northern Arizona
- Sunset Crater National Monument
- Buffalo Park

Attention to the beauty, wonder and inspiration that dark star-filled skies bring to all. Flagstaff was the FIRST International Dark Sky City and continues to be the largest Dark Sky City in the world. The Flagstaff Community celebrates this vision with several events throughout the week.

REGISTRATION: CAS members who want to participate as volunteers or telescope hosts need to apply directly with Flagstaff Dark Sky Coalition. Details include:

- Early drop-off of telescopes at Heritage Square is necessary. Parking will be restricted next to the Square.
- There are no power hookups for telescopes, battery power for your telescopes only.
- Lowell staff will instruct you on the user of astronomy of laser pointers.

4. FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE - Science Festival Alliance

DATE: Check CAS Calendar and [Flagstaff Festival of Science website](#) for more information.

LOCATION: Wheeler Park 212 W Aspen Ave, Flagstaff

CAS has had a booth at “Science in the Park,” which is an event of the Festival of Science.

REGISTRATION: CAS Treasurer Anne Wittke registers CAS for the event. If you are interested in participating, please contact Anne at treasurer@coconinoastro.org. This is a daytime event.

- CAS will have an assigned and dedicated table with shade cover of the event (see picture below). CAS will provide a banner and membership materials.
- Telescope hosts should bring a solar telescope or a scope with a fixed solar filter.
- SMART Telescopes are allowed but there are no power hookups for telescopes, battery power for your telescopes only.
- CAS members should bring examples of their astrophotography images, old copies of Sky and Telescope (giveaways) or other materials that promote science to the public.
- Arrive early to set up at a designated table at Wheeler Park.

