

Grand Traverse Astronomical Society 2017 Star Party and Event Schedule

Northwestern Michigan College's Joseph H. Rogers Observatory, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and other locations.

Note: This schedule is subject to change so check often. Previous events will be removed.

Events will be canceled due to cloudy or inclement weather.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
Friday	September 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon early, Saturn
Saturday	September 16	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Fishtown, Leland MI	Leland Heritage Festival
Saturday	September 16	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Saturn, Dark skies, Summer Milky Way
Saturday	September 23	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL Dune Climb	Saturn Early, Dark
Thursday	September 28	7-9 p.m.	Traverse Area District Library – Woodmere	Moon and Saturn
Saturday	September 30	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Flintfields Horse Pk Bates Rd, Acme	Acme Fall Festival
Friday	October 6*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Saturn
Saturday	October 21	8-10 p.m.	SBDNL-Dune Climb (Location Change)	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 47th Anniversary Star Party
Saturday	October 28	7 p.m. -?	200 block Front St Traverse City	International Observe the Moon Night
Friday	November 3*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon
Friday	December 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon

* These dates the viewing session is preceded by a meeting and program by the GTAS at 8 p.m. While normally meetings are on the first Friday of the month, except August where there is a star party only. All are welcome to these meetings.

See www.gtastro.org for updated outreach events around the area.

Also go to the societies FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/GT-Astro/302863949922366>

Explanation Key

SBDNL – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

☀ - Sun viewing

Conditions:

Dark - Dark skies. Deep Sky Objects (DSOs: star clusters, nebulae and galaxies) visible depending on the season.

Twilight - Twilight lasts through out the viewing period. Some Deep Sky Objects may be visible near the end of the viewing period.

Objects other than planets:

Orion Nebula - A stellar nursery 1,800 light years away. The best and closest such object. Visible on winter evenings.

Summer Milky Way - Many Deep Sky Objects are visible in our galaxy. The Milky Way is best seen on August and September evenings with the moon out of the sky. This also means dark skies.

In Case of Inclement Weather:

NMC Rogers Observatory star parties:

- If it is cloudy, a tour and slide show will be presented.
- Winter viewing may be canceled due to inclement weather, especially a heavy snow the day of the event which would make the hill impassable.

Other star parties will be canceled.

Festival events will have exhibits only if observing is not possible.

Schedule as of 08/31/17. Changes can be made at any time, so check often.

Fees:

The GTAS does not collect fees, however we do accept donations. In some venues we cannot solicit donations, such as at NMC or Sleeping Bear Dunes who collect their own fees. If we can solicit donations we will have our donation jars out if you'd like to contribute. We also accept donations of used telescopes which we either can use for star parties or resell at our annual yard sale.

The GTAS is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) educational organization subsisting on membership dues, and donations, which are tax deductible.

For more information on events at the Rogers Observatory call (231)995-2300

For more information on events sponsored by the GTAS go to www.gtastro.org

[Link to MapQuest map of the Rogers Observatory, Traverse City, MI](#) (drive entrance)