

Grand Traverse Astronomical Society 2019 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.

Outdoor events will be canceled due to cloudy or inclement weather.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
Friday	January 4*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Orion Nebula, Dark
Friday	February 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Orion Nebula, Dark
Thursday	February 7	6-8 p.m.	Greenspire School	Exhibits, making comets, observing if clear
Friday	March 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Orion Nebula, Dark
Friday	April 5*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Orion Nebula, Dark after 10 p.m.
Saturday	April 13?	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Moon, binary stars, brighter deep sky objects late (Twilight)
Friday	May 3*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Mars early, binary stars, brighter deep sky objects late (Twilight)
Saturday	May 11	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Astronomy Day, Moon, Mars early, binary stars, brighter deep sky objects late (Twilight)
Sunday	May 19	11 a.m.-4 p.m.	NMC Campus	NMC Barbecue: Sun, Meteorites, Exhibits
Saturday	May 25?	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Binary stars, brighter deep sky objects late (Twilight)
Friday	June 7*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Mars, Jupiter late (Twilight)
Saturday	June 8?	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Moon, Mars, Jupiter late (Twilight)
Friday	July 5*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Twilight, Mercury & Mars early, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn later
Saturday	July 6?	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Twilight, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn later
Friday	August 9?	5-? p.m.	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live – Sun. After hours if clear – Moon, Jupiter & Saturn
Saturday	August 10	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL-Thoreson farm	Solar Viewing afternoon, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn plus some brighter deep sky objects.
Friday	August 16?	5-? p.m.	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live – Sun. After hours if clear – Jupiter & Saturn
Saturday	August 31?	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Jupiter, Saturn, summer Milky Way
Friday	September 6*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Jupiter, Saturn
Saturday	September ?	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Fishtown, Leland MI	Leland Heritage Festival: Sun
Saturday	September 21?	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Jupiter, Saturn, summer Milky Way
Saturday	September ?	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Flintfields Horse Park Bates Rd, Acme	Acme Fall Festival: Sun
Friday	October 4*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, the Pleiades late.
Saturday	October ?	8 p.m. -?	200 block Front St Traverse City	International Observe the Moon Night

Schedule as of 12/21/18. Changes can be made at any time, so check often.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
Monday	October 21	8-10 p.m.	SBDNL-Dune Climb	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore - 49th Anniversary Star Party. Saturn early, dark, Pleiades, northern Milky Way.
Friday	November 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Dark, Great Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades, northern Milky Way.
Friday	December 6*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Great Orion Nebula, Pleiades, Double Cluster

* On these dates the viewing session is preceded by a meeting and program by the GTAS at 8 p.m. Normally meetings are on the first Friday of the month, except August. All are welcome to these meetings.

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

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

Explanation Key

SBDNL – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Dates with question mark have not yet been approved by the park.

☀ - 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 brighter 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.

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)

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