



## Special global project of IYA 2009

StarPeace project is a Global Special Project of International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) which intends to hold common star parties near the border lines in cooperation with astronomy groups from different countries with shared land border, in IYA 2009. Both groups in two neighboring countries hold common star parties in regions around their borders according to geographical conditions of the region. Although political border has separated people of both countries, stargazers look at the sky simultaneously and the sky will join them. Furthermore, scientific speech, public space party, astronomical photos exhibition, etc. may be established at the same time depending upon activity potential in same border point.

This project may be done in all countries with shared land border, but they are divided into two categories according to the public star party program. In the first category there are countries which have no free border, so star party is held in a place near the shared border of the countries so that people of both countries are joined by the sky. The second category includes countries with free border; people of both countries are gathered together in zero-border point in a night to improve their connection in the sky as well as earth.

To cover all countries worldwide, StarPeace project recommends countries limited by their water border to choose a night by cooperation of astronomy groups of other country with the same situations to observe the sky, so that infinity of the sky and freedom of water join their countries. It should be noted that countries limited by their water borders should be geographically near each other so that they can observe the sky simultaneously for some hours.

If you (or your astronomy society) tend to participate in StarPeace project during IYA 2009, please contact us and register your society or club in StarPeace website.

### **Attention:**

Just persons and societies with submitted name in StarPeace official website are liable to hold the StarPeace Project in their country. StarPeace Core Team does not confirm other groups' activities, who claim to hold the StarPeace project. For more information please check:

<http://www.starpeace.org/En/Clubs/Default.aspx>



## **40 counsel**

### **To Organize a Public Star Party in StarPeace Project**

The organizers of this public star party (observational night) are experienced amateur astronomers who must be capable of working with telescope and be familiar with observing the sky, besides having a general knowledge on basics of astronomy. Moreover they have to meet the scientific and moral requirements for such a service. Each group starts its activity in a certain border point by informing StarPeace Core Team.

Within this text “plan” means the procedure holding the star party accompanied by scientific lectures about astronomy, environment, etc; presentation of astronomical pictures in form of slideshow, exhibition of astronomical instruments, pictures, etc. In general it would be preferred to have workshops and lectures related to scientific fields parallel to astronomy, provided that such ability exist in the executive group members. Discussions on geology, geography, history of science, environment, nature, etc, are the recommended issues in this regard. StarPeace Core Team should be informed of such cases in advance. The term “scout team” refers to the guides of astronomy and nature tours and skilled amateur astronomers who have the experience of such plans like ‘astronomy day’ or ‘sidewalk astronomy night’ and play a scientific-executive role in StarPeace Project. The most experienced person in terms of age and knowledge would be the leader in this team.

This ground rule refers to ‘all the invitees’ as every human being present in the plan including ordinary people, the leader, journalists, photographers, and local authorities who are invited to attend the plan.

We have tried to prepare a comprehensive set of ground rules for the observation night.

It is still recommended the countries attending the project hold the observation night in accordance with the cultural specifications of their country. Of course the applied rules should not be opposed to the nature of the project that is based on peace and security.

### **Ground rules for organizing a star party in StarPeace project**

1- The observation site (venue) should select around a village or city near to land or water borderline between two nations. The object of StarPeace project is science promotion between people and the location for hold the project must accessible for all of them.

2- It is better to hold the project under the dark sky with limiting magnitude around 6.0. The dark sky is much more attractive for public. If a region with such sky does not have good accessibility and is faraway for people or it is not safe and does not have good security situation, you could hold the project in a safer region with dark sky for people who live there, near borderline.

3- Before holding the project, you should find you partner in your neighbor country that you may know them before. StarPeace Core Team could help your team to find your partner amateur astronomy group in your neighboring countries. You have to coordinate your activity with your partner in method of hold and start-end time of the project.



- 4- We recommend you making a live internet or telephone connection with your partner at least some minutes meanwhile the event is running, if possible.  
You could prepare a special peace message for your friend and people who observe the sky like you at the opposite side of border in your neighboring country and you may read that for them during the live connection.
- 5- The time of the event depends on the conditions of you and your partner in your neighboring country and it is not determined by StarPeace Core Team. We suggest that you hold the event during nights near first quarter of the moon, since lunar observing is very interesting for people and you might show them many things on the moon surface. Furthermore, it is better to select a night to hold the event that is simultaneous with astronomical events (like meteor shower, solar or lunar eclipse), national events (National Day in your country or in your neighbor country), or science and historical events (For example: Yuri's Night, Anniversary of the first human traveling to the moon, Anniversary of Sputnik launch, birthday of one pioneer famous astronomer in your country or in your neighboring country, etc).
- 6- All the invitees must follow the executive instructions provided by the scout chief and scout team from the beginning of the plan until they're back at the origin.
- 7- For small scale programs (less than 30 persons) one scout would be enough to accompany the group. For bigger events scout team must be formed.
- 8- The scout team must be completely coordinated with the police and military forces and make sure about the security of the venue and obtain the required guarantees from the local authorities.
- 9- If during any part of the program a minimal risk of insecurity occurs at the venue, the scout must stop the program immediately. Security is the initial basic of the project and holding the program without it does not make any sense. Follow the orders of police or military commander for protection of security is obligate for every person.
- 10- Bringing warm clothes is necessary for all of the invitees. Although the program may be held in summer and they may not necessarily be used, having warm clothes has always been useful. The quality and quantity of the clothes depends on the venue and the scout team must inform the invitees about the climate of the venue and provide the necessary advises. It is also necessary to take equipment like sleeping bag and personal pillow (in order to rest at the end of program or in case of rain).
- 11- The invitees are responsible to protect their tools against the potential damages. It is therefore necessary for the scout team and of course the invitees to prepare proper boxes and bags for carriage.
- 12- It is better that the invitees use the passenger vehicle provided by the scout team to go to the venue. Travelling with private cars may interfere with the executive operations of the scout team.
- 13- Since the roads leading to the venues are mostly not asphalted, in order to protect the optical instruments the drivers must drive as slowly as possible.



14- Leaving the group without group scout's permission is not accepted by any means.

15- It is recommended that the invitees have conserved foods (cans), energizers (dates, pistachio, chocolate, raisins) and hot and cold drinks with them. Though, the scout team provides the invitees with standard quantity of various foods.

16- The food served by the scout team during the observation night must be light, liquid and easy to digest offering high carbohydrate, medium protein, and low fat. In fact lunch and afternoon snack should be selected from the energizers and dinner should be light and simple. The invitees would need a lot of fresh and healthy water during the night that must be foreseen considering the climate of the venue. Serving tea or coffee with cookies during the night could minimize the risks of low blood pressure and exhaustion.

17- In order to prevent unlikely events, security instructions must be observed thoroughly. Therefore, the invitees are not allowed to make a fire during the program, even for cooking. Scout team has to prevent any risks.

18- It is not recommended to take any non-energizers during the day.

19- All the invitees must observe the environmental instructions. The venues are usually located out of the town, and presence of invitees in the nature may cause man pollution in the venues. The scout team must prepare a plan to prevent pollution.

The plan must be prepared so that after the program is over, there should not be any sign of human destruction at the site. For this reason all the invitees must help the scout team in this regard during the observation night and specially before leaving the place.

20- In order to prevent environmental pollution, the scout team must minimize the use of disposable dishes; all the invitees are therefore requested to bring personal glass, plate, fork, and spoon.

21- The scout team, while being coordinated with the local authorities, should benefit from the support of an experienced first aid team, or the team members should be experienced in this field. The presence of a medical doctor in the team will increase the safety level.

22- Since the venues are located in untouched areas, the first aid team must be prepared against the risks of reptiles. Therefore it is necessary for the first aid team to have anti-poisons for snake, scorpion, etc. bites.

23- All the invitees are requested to use red lights. They should move in a way that does not bother any other invitee. They must specifically be careful about the tools and wires on the ground.

24- The observers must not put their devices near those of the others. The desired space for each observing instrument in this program is 50 square meters (7\*7). If there is no enough space or if the observer is not sure about it, the best way is to ask the others if your settlement bothers them. The guidelines provided by the scout leader could be useful in this regard.



- 25- The electronic telescopes produce minimal noises. Invitees using this type of telescopes must setup their devices in such places that this minimal noise doesn't bother the others by any means.
- 26- The invitees are requested to cooperate with the journalists and astrophotographers in order to meet their professional goals. A wrong torch light can destroy the hard efforts of an astrophotographer.
- 27- Special guests, journalists and photographers are requested to consider that during the public star party, they should not disturb the observers. Observers in this program gathered together from distant places and in order to organize a fun and promoting public observing night they need concentration and quiet surrounding. It is suggested to ask questions or conduct interviews with observers after or before the public observing night.
- 28- The invitees are allowed to listen to the music during the program only using headsets.
- 29- The required tools for optimal observation include: binoculars with aperture of more than 70 millimeter and telescopes with aperture of more than 90 millimeters.  
Generally, three devices are required and one observer must be responsible for each device.
- 30- Every three observer groups must be supervised by an amateur astronomer. The work procedure for each group while consulted with the supervisor must be preplanned. When there are different ideas, that of the supervisor talks.
- 31- Since people mostly consider the observation possible only with the telescope, it is recommended to use only one binocular in the program. Sky Atlas of any kind, torch with red light, green laser, mats, small folding chairs, notebooks, photography devices and any other required equipment for a common star party must be prepared
- 32- Use of laptops is allowed during the program provided that the screen light doesn't bother the others.
- 33- Use of sky presenter software on laptops could be very useful, especially if devices like video projector, LPI, CCD and presentation screen are used for public screening of the observation. In this case one of the observers can continue the program in form of a scientific lecture.
- 34- All the invitees must use red lights immediately after the program starts.
- 35- Altering or replacing the others' devices without owner's permission is not allowed.  
In necessary cases only the chief scout or those selected by him can do it.
- 36- Speaking loudly or making any noises is not allowed. The program must be held in a peaceful calm environment free from any sorts of stress, and therefore the number of invitees must not impact the quality.
- 37- Smoking is not allowed by any means, all the invitees and the scout team are obliged to observe this rule. The journalists and supervisors are allowed to smoke provided that their act is not seen in public



sessions of the program. The scout team is responsible to stop those who break this rule even if the others have no problem with that.

38- Drinking alcoholic drinks is not allowed by any means. The scout team is responsible to stop those who break this rule even if the others have no problem with that.

39- It would be nice if the observers do their best to help each other and manifest a desired face of a friendly and peaceful program.

40- Success in holding of StarPeace event will be complete if you send a complete report from your event with some good pictures for StarPeace Core Team. Then we evaluate it and we will put your report on official StarPeace website.

Advises about organizing a star party are various. If you are eager to participate in StarPeace project, we encourage you and your team to see more in this website:

<http://www.aanc-astronomy.org/articles/host-a-starparty.html>

StarPeace Core Team wishes you clear peaceful starry nights!