

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Sky's The Limit Campus is **always open**, and self-guided tours of our educational exhibits are available via QR Codes accessed by smartphones. The tours include the **Orrery** – a walkable true-to-scale and position replica of our **Solar System**; a **Nature Trail** that identifies and gives interesting facts about native plants; a **Meditation Garden** based on Zen principles, and nine stunning **steel sculptures**, donated by the artist Simi Dabah, that depict astronomical themes.

Please be aware that there is no running water on the site, and the restrooms are not open if no docents are on Campus.

Docents are on Campus on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm to orient visitors and often share a safe view of the Sun through our solar scopes.

The **Events** tab lists all of the scheduled viewing events. Because we are all volunteers, these events are limited to **SATURDAY NIGHTS WHEN THE MOON IS NOT FULL** (the full moon is so bright, telescope viewing is very limited.) *If the date is not tabbed as an event, there is no guarantee that astronomers will be on campus.*

Nonetheless, amateur astronomers often come to *Sky's The Limit* outside of scheduled events to set up their telescopes on our winding walkways. They usually are willing to share a view of what they have found.

So if you are here during the week or on a weekend when no event is scheduled, please feel free to bring a camp chair and your binoculars or telescope to *Sky's The Limit* to spend an evening under the awesome desert night sky. Just be aware that there will be no facilities available, and it may be colder than you would anticipate.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT TO SKY'S THE LIMIT OBSERVATORY AND NATURE CENTER

Sky's The Limit campus is located just outside the 29 Palms entrance to Joshua Tree National Park. This Mojave Desert site, at an elevation of 2800 feet in the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities, experiences harsh conditions and great fluctuations in temperature. Temperatures in summer can be well over 100 during the day and drop as much as 30 degrees at night. Strong winds are common. Be prepared for the unexpected. Weather can change drastically in a matter of minutes. Everything from flash floods (even if it is not raining anywhere near you) to extreme drops in temperature can happen in no time at all in the desert.

Sky's The Limit has restrooms (pit toilets) but no running water. No smoking and no pets are allowed on the campus. There is limited shade area and limited seating. Visitors must carry all trash out with them.

Nighttime activities are best when there is very little light to interfere with stargazing and telescope viewing, so the campus is very dark.

Here are some practical tips for a safe and enjoyable visit:

- Bring plenty of water: at least one gallon per person, per day. More is better. Keep reminding each other to drink often.
- Wear appropriate clothing: dress in layers to accommodate changing temperatures.
- Wear good walking shoes or boots with well-fitting socks.
- Protect your head with a hat and your eyes with sunglasses.
- Use sunscreen and be sure it is unscented; if you smell like a flower, desert insects may love you a little too much.

- Stay on the marked trails and concrete pathways; you want to steer clear of cacti and other spiky plants, and you must protect native plants and the desert ecosystem.
- Enjoy desert wildlife from afar; some of the spiders and reptiles are poisonous, tortoise are an endangered species, and all living creatures must be protected from harm.
- Bring food: you may find yourself quite far from any restaurants or stores.
- Bring your own chairs or campstools.
- Bring only flashlights with red lenses; no white, yellow, or green lights.
- Bring the appropriate number of chaperones for the age group visiting; docents are busy explaining programs and activities and cannot watch visitors.
- Visit our website for more information <http://www.skysthelimit29.org>
- Visit our weather station for current conditions www.weatherlink.com/user/stlcampus

GENERAL ADVICE FOR TRAVELING IN THE DESERT

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO – This is not frivolous advice, it is very serious.

- Let someone at home know your itinerary and when to expect you to return home. If you are delayed or stranded they'll have some idea of where to start looking for you. If your plans change be sure to let them know.
- Learn about the area. Visit the Chamber of Commerce or California Welcome Center for maps and other important information.

PACK THE ESSENTIALS

- Carry maps, a compass, and have knowledge of the area prior to trip; note landmarks as you travel.
- Take along a first aid kit.
- Carry a cell phone and extra battery.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

- Stay with your vehicle or otherwise make yourself visible.
- Stay put so rescuers have a better chance of finding you.
- Avoid walking during the heat of the day; morning and evening walking is better for conserving your body's moisture.
- Seek shelter from the elements.