

The Stellafane Convention

ADVICE, GUIDELINES, AND POLICIES

To ensure your enjoyment and safety at The Stellafane Convention, please read this information carefully.

Emergencies and First Aid

In case of emergency please contact Security (by the gate) or any STM member. If you have a family service radio, you may contact Convention staff via channel 7 (please avoid non-emergency use of this channel at Convention). **First aid kits are located in the Bunkhouse, the McGregor Observatory, and the Clubhouse.** We have trained medical staff on site.

Where to Set Up your Telescope

Most people set up their telescopes in the field to the south of the McGregor Observatory, although there are other areas within Stellafane East that are useable. You may not set up your telescope in a designated parking area, in the outdoor amphitheater area, or anyplace else it might be in the way of other activities. Use common sense, and please consult the site map as well as the signs posted throughout the Convention site for the designated parking locations.

If you register your homemade or antique telescope for the Competition, to compete or for "Display Only", you may drive up to the Clubhouse area in the daylight hours to drop it off and pick it up. However, there is no extended parking as space is extremely limited. Please move your car to a designated parking area at Stellafane East as soon as possible.

Lighting Policy

Stellafane does not allow open white lights on clear nights, except for one half hour after the Friday and Saturday evening talks end. Vehicular travel after this time is strongly discouraged and is done only at the risk of the operator. Red filter paper for flashlights is available at the Clubhouse and at the T-shirt stand. We thank you for your cooperation.

Laser Pointer Policy

Lasers pointers can be a helpful tools for astronomers, but can be dangerous if not properly used. Direct viewing of a laser-pointer beam, even briefly and at a distance of a kilometer or two, has the potential to cause temporary blindness – the same effect you get right after a flash photo is taken – or afterimages. These effects last anywhere from seconds to minutes. Glare, which is a reduction or loss of central vision, lasts only as long as exposure to the beam. All these effects could be disastrous if they struck a person operating machinery, driving a car, or flying a plane.

To help use your laser tools safely, the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. has adopted these recommendations as policy. These are based on the suggestions from the Laser Institute of America and published in May 2005 by *Sky and Telescope*.

- **Laser pointers are designed to illuminate inanimate objects. Never shine a laser pointer toward any person, aircraft, or other vehicle.**
- **Never look directly into a beam of a laser pointer of any type.**
- **Do not allow children to use a laser pointer unsupervised. Laser pointers are not toys.**
- **If your telescope is equipped with a laser pointer that has a "constant on" setting, do not leave the instrument unattended with the laser switched on.**
- **Do not aim a laser pointer towards mirrors or other shiny surfaces. The reflected beam may inadvertently strike someone in the eye.**
- **Do not aim a laser pointer skyward if you hear or see an aircraft of any kind flying overhead.**
- **Laser pointers shall not be used in the Clubhouse observing fields.**
- **Additional laser use restrictions may be put into place by the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. as situations arise.**
- **The Convention staff, at its sole discretion, may terminate or prohibit use of lasers by any person on Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. property.**

Smoking Policy

Smoking of any substance, including vaping, is prohibited at all times in the Pavilion, Clubhouse, amphitheater, and observatories. Individuals may request that you not smoke within 6 feet of their personal telescope set up in any observing field.

Food Service

The main Food Service Tent is located just to the south of the Bunkhouse. Note: This Food Service Tent is open all night if you need a snack and/or coffee during your observing session. Food service will be available for Thursday dinner and for Friday breakfast if you are using our Early Entry Permit option.

Swap Table Policy

For the sake of historical continuity, to preserve the uniqueness of the Stellafane Convention and to encourage conventioners to build their own instruments, the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. does not allow commercial sales, of any kind, at the Stellafane Convention. All swap table sales must comply, in concept, with the above objective but are also specifically subject to the following criteria:

- **Surplus astronomical, telescope and telescope making related items may be sold.**
- **Each person will be allowed 16 square feet of table or ground space.**
- **Items with the appearance of being specifically purchased or manufactured for sale at the Swap Tables may not be sold.**
- **All sales must take place within the designated Swap Table area only between 7am and Noon, the Saturday of the Stellafane Convention.**

The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. may choose to grant a limited exception to the above policies to astronomy related organizations for their fundraising. Any request for an exemption must be made, in writing, at least one month prior to the Convention. If granted, the President of the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. will notify the requesting organization in writing.

Any member of the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. has the authority to determine whether a party is in compliance with the established regulations. Any person who is found to be in violation of the stated policies will be required to comply. Failing compliance, the offending party will be asked to leave the Convention and may be escorted from the premises by Convention Security.

The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. encourages those with questions regarding this policy to contact the Club via the Stellafane web page at www.stellafane.org. During the Convention, any questions regarding this policy, the appropriateness of items being displayed, or any information being disseminated, should be directed to a member of the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc.

Generators

Use of generators is discouraged at Convention. Properly muffled RV generators and quiet portable generators of 1,000 watts or less may be used between the hours of 9am and 6pm in the camping areas only. Generators may never be used in the observing fields, after dark, or at other locations at Stellafane. The generator must not create a hazard. Any complaint of unsafe operation or excessive noise will immediately cause the generator to be banned from operation.

Cell Phone Service

Be advised that cell phone service is "spotty" in hilly southern Vermont. Good coverage is generally available near interstates and town centers,

but gets less reliable as you move off into the countryside. At Stellafane, you might have to move about the site to get a connection, but most carriers do have a useable signal at least in some (higher) areas of our site. If you can see Mt. Ascutney to the north, you will likely have service.

Electrical Outlets

There are outlets in the McGregor Observatory and just inside the main entrance to the Flanders Pavilion that may be used for recharging batteries and portable devices. The Springfield Telescope Makers accept no responsibility for unattended property. **No extension cords may be used. Convention attendees may not use any other indoor or outdoor outlets anywhere on our campus for any purpose. This is an important safety precaution, and it will be strictly enforced.**

Shuttle Bus

The Shuttle Bus makes two stops in Stellafane East, one by the Food Tent and one by the main camping area ("Pine Island," see Stellafane East Site Map). It makes one stop on Breezy Hill near the Clubhouse.

Family Service Radios

The Convention staff uses family service radio channel 7 to facilitate communications during the Convention. **Please avoid use of channel 7 when you are at the Convention site, except in emergencies.**

2 Meter Repeater: W1STM

There is a 2 meter Ham Radio repeater in continuous operation on site, call sign W1STM, operating at 147.15 MHz, +600kHz offset, no tone.

Campfires Not Allowed

Open campfires are not permitted. If you are camping and/or cooking on the Stellafane site, you must use approved cooking equipment such as a portable grill or camp stove. Do not cut any trees. Also, always be careful about disposal of cigarette butts.

Golf Carts and ATVs

No personal golf carts or ATVs will be allowed at Convention. Only golf carts and ATVs being used for official Convention purposes will be allowed.

Pet Policy

The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. welcomes you to bring your pets to the Stellafane Convention, provided the following rules are followed:

- **Pets must be confined, leashed or otherwise under the physical control of a person at all times. Leashes may not exceed 6 feet in length. Pets that are tethered at the campsite cannot be left unattended for more than 30 minutes. Pets may not be tied to trees, bushes, tables or shelter facilities, even when the owners are present. Individuals may request that you not allow your pet within**

6 feet of their personal telescope or photographic equipment set up in an observing area.

- Pets must be well-behaved at all times. Pets must be confined in the owner's camping unit during quiet hours (11pm – 8am).
- Pet owners are required to pick up after their pets and properly dispose of all pet droppings in trash receptacles.
- Any pet that is noisy, dangerous, intimidating or destructive will not be allowed to remain at the Convention.

Failure to comply with the above rules will result in you and your pet being asked to leave the Convention; you may be escorted from the premises by Convention security. The Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. thanks you in advance for helping to make the Stellafane Convention more enjoyable for everyone. Enjoy the Convention!

Stellafane Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is intended to ensure that the birthplace of amateur telescope making is preserved for future generations by providing adequate funding to cover the basic costs of maintaining the Stellafane Clubhouse, the Porter Turret Telescope and the McGregor, Bruening, and Simoni Observatories, and other existing and future buildings and properties owned by the Springfield Telescope Makers, Inc. If you are interested in supporting the endowment fund you may do so by mail or online with our Donation Form at stellafane.org/help/donate-form.html. Thanks!

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located at the T-shirt table across from the Food Tent.

Stellafane Website



We Want Your Photos and Videos!

The Stellafane website (Stellafane.org) offers extensive how-to information and links on telescope making, and detailed Stellafane history. You'll also find accounts and photos from past Conventions there, and of course we will post many photos from this Convention in the weeks following the event, as well as the list of competition winners.

Your submissions are very welcome—please send your photos (or links to those you've uploaded to sharing sites) to webmaster@stellafane.org.

Videos are welcomed as well, but please don't send them directly; use a sharing service like YouTube or Vimeo and send us a link.



The Stellafane clubhouse as it appeared about 1930. It hasn't changed much since.

BE SURE TO VISIT THE ORIGINAL STELLAFANE SITE

Since so much of the Convention takes place at Stellafane East, it's all too easy to miss the fun of seeing the original Stellafane Clubhouse and the Porter Turret Telescope on Breezy Hill. Catch the Shuttle Bus near the Food Tent or at Pine Island (near the main camping area) or just take the short walk down the road opposite the entry "fruit stand" where you checked in. The original site, including the Clubhouse and the Porter Turret Telescope, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989. It remains the location for the Stellafane Convention's optical and mechanical competitions for amateur-built telescopes.