

Colorado Springs Astronomical Society

Starry Meadows Power Use Policy



Board Approved: 5/15/2023

Overview

This Starry Meadows Power Use Policy is intended to provide guidance and direction to attendees of the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society (CSASTRO) sponsored Rocky Mountain Star Stare, September Skies Star Stare or other special events. It addresses the use of electrical power at the Starry Meadows property located north of Gardner, Colorado. CSASTRO recognizes that attendees use various methods of camping on the property and many use recreation vehicles (RVs) and trailers. Due to limitations on the electrical grid capacity during special events, CSASTRO only allows limited RV/Trailers to connect to outlets, primarily vendors. This policy is subject to change at any time without notice by the CSASTRO board. If an attendee is in doubt as to the meaning of any of the power use policies during events, they should contact the event director for clarification.

Electrical Use Safety Procedures & Policies for Participants during special events

- **These Rules must be followed at all times**
- ***Safety and fire prevention is paramount.*** Make this your number one priority when using electrical power at Starry Meadows
- No fee will be charged for using electrical power onsite, but donations are gladly accepted in the office
- **Vendors:** 110v (20A) power is available for vendors with Event Director or Town Hall Coordinator approved extension cords; the food vendor may use 220v (50 or 30 amps) and 110v (20A) power.
- 110v (15A) power is available for approved uses to attendees at the Town Hall building.
- RV's and trailers may not be connected to the building power five (5) days prior to, during and two (2) days after special events to allow for setup and tear down.
- The approved uses of electrical power for regular attendees *at the Town Hall Building:*
 - Use of the microwave oven located inside the Town Hall building. Please clean microwave after use with the paper towels and cleaner provided.
 - Charging small battery-operated devices, such as cell phones, laptops, power cells, tablets, etc.
 - Use the charging station inside the Northeast corner of the building. The outlets are connected to a surge suppressor.

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- It is recommended you stay with your device while charging. If not, please attach your name to the device using the sticky notes provided.
- Do not add splitters or power strips to the charging station. If there are no available outlets, contact the event or building administrator.
- If a device is seen to be fully charged and there is a line waiting to charge devices, an event official may disconnect that device and charger and replace it with the first waiting device. Only event officials may disconnect unattended devices and chargers.
- Chargers and cables are not provided by CSASTRO.
- Use of laptop computers
 - Tables are provided near the center of the building to use with a pull-down extension cord. It is not surge suppressed.
 - A maximum of 16 laptops may be connected to each pull-down ext. cord.
 - If you are running on battery and the workstations are busy, please yield to those needing power at the workstation and use another table.
 - Do not leave your laptop unattended at the workstation for more than a bathroom break.
 - 2 power strips are provided and you may add a surge suppressor to them.
 - When done working, please move your laptop to the charging station to charge if needed.
- Charging of lead-acid batteries
 - For safety reasons, lead-acid batteries must be charged outside.
 - Two 4-plug receptacles with concrete blocks to place lead-acid batteries on while charging are located outside the building on the North side.
- Those needing to use power for any other use may only do so with approval from the event Director; ask at the office.
- Approved devices must be connected directly to the building outlets. No extension cords or splitters; however, the event Director or the Town Hall Coordinator may grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Please ask if in doubt.
- 110v (20A) power is available at *the Field Power Outlets*, the policies to connect follow:
 - Telescope/Astrophotography, other related technical equipment, the charging of small electrical devices, and necessary medical equipment such as CPAP machines. All devices must be connected directly to the field power outlets unless using an approved extension cord. If multiple outlets are required for Astronomy equipment, a surge suppressor with multiple outlets may be used.

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- RVs and Trailers are not authorized to connect to the field outlets during RMSS and other special events.
- Approved extension cords must be a minimum of 14-gauge, single outlet cord not to exceed 100', outdoor rated cable. Extension cords with factory installed splitters may be used.
- Ensure all extension cords are placed in a manner that prevents a tripping hazard. Low brightness LED red light strings are acceptable to identify extension cords at night.
- All Field Outlets are protected from overload with GFCI devices. If a field outlet GFCI is tripped, all connected cords must be disconnected and the GFCI reset. Cords will only be reconnected once the cause of the tripping is identified and eliminated. If the main breaker for a Field Power Outlet is tripped, disconnect all cords to the outlet and notify an Event Director or the Land Committee Chairperson. Do not use the outlet until it is approved by a qualified electrician.
- Lead acid batteries must be placed on a fire-proof/non-flammable surface and monitored during charging at a field outlet.
- Do not leave any devices connected to the outlets if departing the property.
- Any and all other uses of the Field outlets must be approved by the event Director or a CSASTRO Board Member.
- Connecting equipment that generates sparks- (welders, metal grinders, etc.) is prohibited. If emergency vehicle repairs must be performed, coordinate those activities with a board member. They will help you investigate a safe solution
- CSASTRO is not responsible for equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged from power surges or fluctuation.

Exceptions to the Policy

- Exceptions to this policy may be made by the board or by the coordinator of an event