



Star Night at the Park



Event starts at sunset around 6:30 pm. What to bring: folding chair, red light, sweater or jacket, enthusiasm to enjoy and conserve our beautiful night skies Entrance fees: \$6/vehicle for the night of viewing, instruction and family fun.

Come spend a cool evening with family and friends at the beautiful Kartchner Caverns State Park as astronomer and dark sky advocate, Mr. Robert (Bob) Gent and other local astronomers help Arizona State Parks' host its 2nd "Star Night" event in Cochise County. Visit Jupiter and Venus through telescopes, and see close-up details of the craters of the moon. Explore the great globular cluster M13 in Hercules, composed of over 100,000 stars. See the M57 ring nebula found in the northern constellation of Lyra, the remnant of a star that exploded thousands of years ago. See stars, galaxies far, far away, and billions of years old. The scenic backdrop and rural setting of the park makes it an idea venue for observing and learning about the complex and stunning night sky that graces the park. Located at an elevation of 4,650 feet above sea level at the base of the picturesque Whetstone Mountains, the park offers moderate temperatures, ample parking and restroom facilities, and stunning sunset views of the San Pedro River Valley. The towering Whetstones also shield light pollution from Tucson, providing reasonably dark skies and an open horizon for good sky observing and astrophotography.

Bob is a retired LT COL, USAF, and served as past President of both the Astronomical League and the International Dark Sky Association. Through Bob's and others' telescopes, night sky viewers will gain new knowledge and awe of the engaging night sky that visitors who camp at Kartchner Caverns State Park enjoy nightly. Travel time is only 45 minutes from central Tucson, and less than 25 minutes from Sierra Vista and a number of other rural communities in Cochise and Pima Counties. For more information contact Chris DeMille, Assist. Park Manager (520) 586-4117.