

Cosmic Camp-In

Program Survival Guide

Thank you for choosing Chabot Space & Science Center as your overnight destination among the stars! We're excited to make your stay unforgettable, effortless, and fun. This guide covers the most common questions to help you get ready for your cosmic adventure.

WHAT TO BRING

Sleeping Essentials

- Cot or sleeping pad
- Tent
- Pillow

Clothing

- Underwear and socks
- Pajamas
- Jacket and warm layers
- Comfortable shoes
- Hat (for sun or warmth)

Personal Items

- Hairbrush
- Chargers
- Water bottle
- Eye mask, earplugs for light and sound
- Snacks
- Medications, CPAP, etc.
- Cart or wagon (optional)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Toiletries
- Small stuffed animal (if needed for comfort)

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Cooking appliances
- Alcohol
- Valuables
- Noise generating devices
- Shoes with wheels

CHAPERONE POLICY: A minimum ratio of 7-1 is required. Chabot staff, overnight hosts and volunteers are not responsible for the supervision of minors. Campers must remain within view of their chaperones at all times. Chaperones are responsible for the behavior of their group.

SOME GOOD RULES TO REMEMBER ARE:

1. Use respectful language—no teasing or put-downs.
2. Follow directions from Chabot staff and event leaders.
3. Treat all materials, equipment, facilities, and the environment with care.

MEALS: Dinner and breakfast are included with your stay and are pre-ordered from the caterer. Meal preferences must be submitted at least 10 days before your visit, and we cannot accept late adjustments to meal orders. If no preference is specified, the default meal will include meat.

We understand that many guests may have additional dietary restrictions, of which we may be unaware. While all meals are nut-free, they are prepared in facilities where nuts may be present. If you have specific dietary needs, we recommend bringing your own food, but please note that refrigeration and heating are not available. Alcohol is not permitted.

ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN: Check-in takes place starting at 5:15 pm at the Observatory Deck located at the rear of the Center. Programming starts at 5:50 pm. Although we cannot accommodate an early check in time, we suggest you arrive around 5:00 pm to park and unload your gear. Late check in is permitted up until 10pm. If you arrive past 5:50 please proceed to the front of the Center with your camping gear and a staff member will check you in at the front desk.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS: Sleeping areas are pre-assigned based on group size, with assignments provided in advance and during orientation. Expect a communal sleeping environment, as private areas cannot be guaranteed. Weather permitting, guests may choose to sleep outdoors in the Courtyard with appropriate gear. Some lights will remain on for safety throughout the center, and ambient noise is expected throughout the night. For comfort, earplugs and eye masks are recommended.

PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE: Upon check-in, groups will receive an all-in-one overnight passport which contains a map, schedule, and scavenger hunt. passport which contains a map, schedule, and scavenger hunt.

Sample Schedule (Subject to change)*

5:10 PM	Check in opens, unload gear
5:50 PM	Orientation
6:10 PM	Workshop
7:10 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	Live Night Sky Tour
8:30 PM	Telescope viewing/Exhibits Exploration/Scavenger Hunt
10:00–11:00 PM	Museum Shutdown Lights Out
10:00 PM–7:00 AM	Quiet Hours
7:00 AM	Lights on/Breakfast
8:00 AM	Planetarium Show
8:45 AM	Complete Scavenger Hunt / Load Out
9:00 AM	All guests must exit

*Girl Scout programs and public overnights may differ.

*Groups who have booked hikes can expect an adjusted itinerary

AGE RESTRICTIONS: The minimum age to attend is 4 years old.

CONSENT AND WAIVER: Please complete our online consent, liability, and meal selection form no later than 10 days prior to your visit. This link is also available via the website and in the receipt for all online orders. A separate form is required per participant. We will have extra forms onsite for last-minute or forgetful attendees.

BADGES: One Chabot Space & Science Center or Scout Patch is included with your adventure for pickup during check-out.

GIRL SCOUT SWAPS (Girl Scout events only): Girl Scouts often make small tokens of friendship to exchange with the Girl Scouts they meet while traveling. These little gifts are called "SWAPS," which stands for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere." We encourage you to perform your SWAPS in the morning just before departure.

STAFFING/SECURITY: Chabot staff, volunteers, astronomers, and members of the East Bay Astronomical Society will lead the primary parts of your program including workshops, hands-on activities, planetarium shows and telescope viewing. A team of overnight hosts and security will remain onsite and on-call during your overnight program.

LIGHTING & NOISE POLICY: For the safety and accessibility of all guests, some lights in the museum must remain on throughout the night. These include lights for emergency egress routes, restrooms, access points, stairwells, and certain exhibits, as well as fixtures that are not manually controlled by staff. Full darkness cannot be guaranteed, and groups understand staff may not turn off additional lights.

Overnight programs take place in large, shared spaces, and while quiet hours are scheduled to encourage a restful environment, some ambient noise is expected. Movement and occasional sounds from other guests will occur throughout the night. For those sensitive to light and sound, we recommend bringing an eye mask and earplugs for a more comfortable experience.

CANCELATION POLICY: There are no cancellations or reductions for group reservations or online ticket orders. This includes outstanding balances for overestimated attendees. If a scheduled overnight fails to meet the minimum guest count, guests will be offered a reschedule to an alternative date.

LATE NIGHT ASSISTANCE/EMERGENCIES: Should you need assistance between 11 pm-7am a radio with instructions will be stationed at the front desk to reach our onsite security and overnight hosts. Directions on how to use it will be explained during your orientation. For outside calls to Chabot Space & Science Center during the overnight call (510) 336-7352.