

# FAQ

## 2025 South Rim Grand Canyon Bike Weekend & Star Party

### WHEN:

Arrive Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. **Perfect timing would be 1 – 3pm**

### WHERE:

**Bring your National Parks & Fed Rec Pass** (America the Beautiful Pass) if you have one.

Grand Canyon South Rim – South Entrance (north of Flagstaff, thru Williams, thru Tusayan)

Park Entrance Fee: \$35 per vehicle / up to 15 people

Find **Mathers Campground** - follow the signs when in the park

See map for camp spots

Fir Loop **Spot # 96**

Fir Loop **Spot # 98**

Fir Loop **Spot # 68**

Fir Loop **Spot # 64**

Fir Loop **Spot # 70**

### WHAT DO I DO WHEN I GET THERE:

- Find our camp spots, or check into your Hotel.
- I will be at the camp spots hanging out from 1 – 3:30pm with cold beer : )
- 5:00 ALL MEET at El Tovar Outside Patio Bar for Happy Hour.  
We probably cannot all fit (agggghhhh...) but we will figure it out.

### WHAT TO BRING:

#### Campers:

- Bike, bike lock, bike light, and all your other regular bike stuff...
- Breakfast for 2 mornings – something simple
- Snacks and Water with refillable water bottle (no single use water bottles plz)
- Cooler / BYOB (no glass) Plastic Wine glass is a good idea : )
- Red Flashlight (must be red) See more info below
- Fold Up Chair (put your name on it)
- Camp stuff – tent/sleeping bag/pillow/ including sleeping pad (or cheap inflatable beach mattress/raft) TOWEL
- Jacket or Fleece vest
- Lantern ??? or Battery Powered Light; flashlight to go to the bathroom : )
- Firewood ???
- Guitar??? or any instrument you play. We will have a Hootenanny at the campfire...

**Please note:** each camp spot has a picnic table, drinking water, fire ring, flush toilet nearby, paved roads, General Store nearby, room for up to six people, three tents, and two vehicles (you'll move your car after you're settled, and ride your bike back), hot shower nearby (\$2.50 / 5 minutes).

## **HOTEL-ERS:**

- Bike, bike lock, bike light, and all your other regular bike stuff....
- Fold up chair for camp visits (put your name on it!)
- Small cooler/BYOB (no glass) Plastic Wine glass is a good idea : )
- Jacket or Fleece vest

Note: There is NO parking at our camp spots. So drop off your chair, and then you can park in the Hotel parking lot and ride your bike to the camp spot : )

## **DEBORAH IS BRINGING FOR US:**

- Pop Up 10 x 10 Tent for Party Central
- 2 fold up tables
- Boom Box
- Coffee Pot - coffee, milk, sweetner (does anyone have a generator???)
- Pop up bar: Aperol Spritz!
- Marshmallows
- Maybe someone is bringing a gas FIREPIT!! ??

## **WHAT ABOUT MEALS???**

### **Lunch:**

Saturday – we will make bag lunches at our campsite to take on our bike ride

Friday or Sunday - You will be able to grab lunch at any number of places – so no worries (unless you want to bring). (walk or ride bike / bring your lock)

**Dinners:** We will have a group dinner each nite at one of the restaurants (walk or ride bike / bring your lock & bike light) after Hour Hour. To be announced.

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING EACH DAY???** *tentative ideas...*

### **Friday** – getting settled / TGIF!

- 5pm Happy Hour at El Tovar back patio – ride your bike
- 6pm Group Dinner at one of the Restaurants
- 8pm Campfire Party & Star Gazing BYOB

### **Saturday** – *this is a general idea – may be revised...*

- someone might want to volunteer to do an *EARLY* morn bike ride????
- 10am morning bike ride (2 – 2.5 hrs)  
We will pack lunch to eat at the end at Hermit's Rest!
- 4pm Happy Hour
- 6pm Group Dinner at one of the Restaurants
- 7:30pm Star Party
- 10pm Campfire Star Gazing BYOB

### **Sunday** – *this is a general idea – may be revised...*

- **9 am – Fossil Discovery Walk with Park Ranger**
- Meet at Bright Angel Trailhead > 60 min. There is a short (0.25 mile/.04 km) walk along the Canyon Rim Trail to reach the fossil bed.
- Lunch
- Afternoon bike ride??
- Depart anytime

**You can do something other than bike : )**

### **ABOUT GRAND CANYON RANGER TOURS**

**Ranger-led day hikes and walks** take place along the Rim Trail year round. During the summer months, an additional 3-mile round trip day hike into the canyon is also offered. Choose from a handful of different Ranger Walks and learn about the animals and plants that live here, as well as remnants of animals from our past.

### **Grand Canyon Cell Phone Audio Tours**

Audio tours give visitors a fun way to learn about the Grand Canyon National Park through a walking tour through your phone. At certain points along the south rim you can call into (928) 255-2907, and a park ranger gives you a two –minute narration ranging from geology to Native American history to the night sky. Just look for the signs “Park Ranger Audio Tour!”

### **WHAT’S THE PLAN FOR THE STAR PARTY AT NIGHT???**

After dinner we will meet at the *South Rim Visitor Center* for the presentation.

Doors open at 7:40 pm. Presentations start at 8 pm. (Limited-capacity seating)

BRING A RED FLASHLIGHT

### **THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2025 STAR PARTY**

Attend this free, open to the general public, event.

The park entrance fee, is good on both South and North rims for 7 days. No additional tickets or sign-up is required.

**The event begins at sunset, although the best viewing is after 9 pm and many telescopes come down after 11 pm; however, on nights with clear, calm skies, some astronomers continue sharing their telescopes into the night.**

View an assortment of planets, double stars, star clusters, nebulae and distant galaxies by night, and perhaps the Sun or Venus by day.

The South Rim Star Party is sponsored by the *Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association*.

Amateur astronomers from across the country volunteer their expertise and offer free nightly astronomy programs and telescope viewing.

Bring a Red Flashlight

Make your way safely: use a red flashlight; white flashlights and cell phone lights are not allowed on the telescope lot.

Make a red flashlight by:

- Covering any flashlight with red cellophane, a limited supply of cellophane and rubber bands are available prior to the evening presentations at the Grand Canyon Visitor center)
- Painting the flashlight lens with red nail polish or a red magic marker.

For more on why red flashlights are helpful, and how the human eye works after dark, [click here](#).