



## LEADING FULL MOON PROGRAMS

Continuing Education for Master Naturalists

Goal: Master Naturalists will sign up to lead or assist with night time programs.

Theme: MN may need special training to ensure safety and enjoyment, and feel comfortable leading night time programs on selected natural areas.

### **Safety issues:**

1. **Predators:** Mountain lions hunt at night. Emphasize staying together as a group. Rattlesnakes may also hunt at night. Look under your car as you approach it when leaving, as snakes may seek heat there. Be aware of where you are walking and walk around snakes if encountered.
2. **Stay on wide, light-colored trails. Suggested natural areas;**
  - Bobcat Ridge: concrete trail from parking lot to shelter; crusher fine trail from shelter.
  - Soapstone Prairie: South parking lot: wide, two-track trail.; or North Parking Lot: Lindenmeier Overlook trail only.
  - Cathy Fromme Prairie: wide concrete trail
  - Coyote Ridge: wide trail to cabin.
3. **Gates:** Bobcat Ridge and Soapstone Prairie only. These close automatically at dusk. Please tell participants to approach slowly and the gates will swing open. NAP staff will alert rangers about the night programs. Staff will alert Rachel Steves regarding night programs at Soapstone Prairie as it influences the traffic counts. Emphasize that they must stay together and leave as a group.
4. **Lightning:**

### **Tip:**

Start program during daylight/dusk. Check the current information for that day on phases of the moon, constellation dates, sunsets and sunrises. It will help you plan your outing, plus you're likely to get lots of questions about these.

Did you know it takes our eyes about 30 minutes to fully adjust to darkness? Limit the use of flashlights to very end when heading back to the cars. "If you use a flashlight, you see the light, if you turn it off, you see the night."

### **When It's Still Light:**

Welcome, introductions, orientation to site and preview of program.

### Suggested Activities:

Moon maps, moon timeline, wildlife and the moon, starmaps (Skymaps.com) handouts (minimal).

### **Short Walk:**

Participants usually want to take a walk. It's best to stay in the lead, and plan one or two stops along the way, and have a specific end point in mind.

**When It's Dark:**

Suggested Activities: Moon phases, planet phases, major constellations, use binoculars to view moon, notice light pollution, listen and enjoy darkness and night sounds, wildlife senses if time and desire.

**What If There's Clouds?**

End with good concluding statement, quote, or something to think about as they leave.