

ASTRONOMY OUTREACH RESOURCES TRAVEL KIT

Since I am enthusiastic about Astronomy Outreach events, one of my continuing activities originally conceived for 2009's IYA2009 was to define and list the contents of my astronomer's outreach kit which I have put together for myself when I attend activities away from my observatory. The contents of this 'kit' are varied and useful for many different applications. In spite of all the items listed, the kit is very easy to take along for events. Suggestions and options to add or remove are welcome! The kit does not include the obvious: Telescopes, Eyepieces, and accessories!

Updated April 4, 2011; Version 1.1 by Doug Snyder; email: starhaven at palominas dot com)

SUGGESTED CONTENTS OF THE 'OUTREACH KIT':

1 ea. Green laser pointer (lower power 5mw type - with spare batteries.

1 ea. Astro-Friendly Red Light Flashlight with spare batteries and bulb (I prefer an LED equipped light)

1 ea. Camera; digital or film, lightweight and equipped with manually switchable on/off built-in flash

1 ea. Pocket Sky Atlas (2007) - from Sky & Telescope; (excellent and physically small star atlas - a must have item)

1 Pair of Binoculars, small; size 10 x 25 - mine are Meade's compact binoculars

1 ea. Observer's Handbook, for current year - published by RASC in Canada

1 ea. Handbook of Constellations (Small book from National Audubon Society); many constellation charts and mythological stories.

1 ea. Guide to the MOON (fold up map from ASTRONOMY Magazine)

1 ea. Planisphere (or 'star wheel') - 5 inch size at least; select appropriate observing latitude

1 ea. 6 inch (15 cm) straightedge or ruler for drawing lines or measuring short 'things'

1 ea. Personal Note Book or Journal; handy various sky object tables, small charts and misc. data, like distances to sky objects.

1 ea. Rolls of RED and BLACK 'duct' tape for minor repairs and to cover exposed and unwanted white lights, mostly on flashlights.

1 ea. Bulls-Eye Level (about 1 inch in diameter) - to level tripods and/or mounts

1 ea. Tweezers

1 ea. Celestron Len's Pen (to clean/brush various optics)

1 ea. Screwdriver - small flat bladed type and small Phillips type (use for just small screws)

1 ea. Compass (a good quality magnetic type for determining North or other directions)

1 ea. Scissors (inexpensive school type with safety cap on blades to prevent poking)

1 ea. Pocket Calculator (ordinary or scientific)

1 ea. Small pocket type Magnifying lens (to aid in reading small print or pictures)

1 ea. Tape Measure (short, maybe about 6 ft or a couple of meters)

1 ea. Swiss Army Knife (a blade for almost every need)

1 ea. Set of 'Allen' wrenches - sizes from .050" to 5/32"; my small set contains 8 wrenches

1 ea. Insect repellent (with Deet)

1 ea. Shoulder bag or small back-pack, or a resource container of your choice.

Items AS NEEDED (AN)

AN: extra Pens and Pencils

AN: Writing material - small notebooks or pads of paper; "Post-It's" get too messy.

AN: (Small removable stick-on labels) for writing on and sticking on various items

AN: Black ink pens (not red ink!)

AN: 'SHARPIE' Permanent Marker Pens (Preferably Black)

AN: One size fits all knit cap to help keep a head warm. (Usually brought along as an extra)

AN: Hand warmers or body warmers; non-toxic chemical type recommended.

AN: A small sandwich bag with assorted sizes of (fresh) rubber bands

AN: Lens cleaning papers or cloth (already packaged) - for those 'stubborn' jobs

AN: Travel Pack of Wet Wipes (for cleaning hands, face, or even astronomy gear)

AN: Spare astronomy friendly Red Light (operational, of course); no replacement bulbs - use lights with red LED's.

AN: Batteries, spare (one or two 9V type, AA type, AAA type, 357 disc type, 2032 disc type)

AN: Band-Aid's (assorted sizes, colors, styles) for those small unexpected body 'dings'

AN: spare eyeglasses or contact lenses

AN: Medication!

MOST OF ALL: CALM, CLEAR SKIES & GOOD FRIENDS