

# GUIDELINES FOR CHAPERONES

**(Please make photocopies, review, and distribute this page to each chaperone)**

When you arrive at Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO), a staff person will greet you, explain what to expect from the tour, and go over safety precautions and rules. An area map will be provided. If you would like additional maps, please ask the Visitor Center.

## **How you can help the students-**

- ✓ Explore the exhibits in the Visitor Center. Read the information to the students, or have the students read it out loud. If you have any questions, the docents are eager to help.
- ✓ Be an active participant. Encourage the students to ask questions. The students will be more inclined to have fun and learn.
- ✓ Please give your undivided attention to the tour guide or the staff person, and the learning objectives of the teacher. This is not the time for personal conversations with fellow chaperones. Please let the students answer the questions – this is their enrichment opportunity.
- ✓ Please encourage the students to dress appropriately; warm clothing (as necessary), closed-toed, flat shoes.

## **How you can help the Kitt Peak Staff-**

- ✓ While either on the tour with your docent or browsing through the Visitor Center, please keep your group together at all times!
- ✓ Stay on the paved roadways, always to the left side.
- ✓ Know who is in your group, and do not let anyone wander from your tour group.
- ✓ Treat everything, including staff, researchers, equipment and environment with utmost respect.
- ✓ Be sure to go with the students in your groups when they enter the gift shop. Please, 10 students per visit.

- ✓ Remember, KPNO is a working observatory most astronomers are asleep during the day, so it is important that you keep the noise down to a minimum especially when walking past the dorms.
- ✓ Understand your responsibilities to monitor the group's behavior and assist with their learning. Unruly groups may result in a loss of a guided tour or be asked to leave the mountain. Our staff and docents are not prepared to act as disciplinarians.

### **How you can help yourself-**

- ✓ Wear comfortable clothing, and shoes. Much of the year the weather is hot enough that a hat, water and sunscreen may be needed. Also, keep in mind that it is usually 10 –20 degrees cooler on Kitt Peak than in the Tucson area.
- ✓ Be prepared to walk a lot. The tours are all walking tours and range between a quarter– mile to a half-mile uphill.
- ✓ Keep in mind that we are about 7,000 feet in elevation. Before you begin the tour, please let your tour guide know if you have trouble walking or breathing at high altitudes.
- ✓ Please do not bring younger children, infants, siblings, family members or guests with you who can interfere with your responsibilities as a chaperone!