

Responsibilities when Hosting VAS Sanctioned Solar Observing Events

- 1) **Safety** - All telescopes with white light solar filters must be checked for safety by the host and/or a designee(s). Note: Hydrogen-Alpha and other narrow bandwidth solar telescopes are inherently safe by design.
 - a) Verify a **proper solar filter** is being used. No homemade or unmarked commercial filters. No open projection systems, that is, setups where a person is able to put an eye into the light path or place a body part into an area of concentrated sunlight. No projection systems on telescopes with apertures larger than 4ö.
 - b) Verify the filter is **not damaged** (no large holes in the coating or excessive number of holes).
 - c) Verify the filter **cannot easily be removed**. Even filters held in place by thumbscrews must be taped to the telescope tube during public events.
 - d) Verify that **finder scopes** have dust caps that are taped on or can otherwise be properly blocked or that finder scopes are removed from the scope. It is recommended that any **“sun finder” devices**, that someone could be tempted to look through be covered or blocked, even on Hydrogen-Alpha and other narrow bandwidth solar telescopes.
 - e) Verify all **scope owners, attendants and “floaters”** have been **briefed on this document**.
- 2) **Scope Attendants** - All telescopes with white light solar filters must have a responsible VAS member attending it at all times (there is an exception for non-member scopes, see 3b).
 - a) There must be enough floaters VAS members to periodically relieve the scope attendants. There must be at least 1 floater (recommend a minimum of 1 floater for every 10 scopes).
 - b) If there are more scopes than available attendants, the number of scopes in service must be reduced. This means making the scope or scopes unable to be used by anyone even if the shortage of attendants is temporary.
- 3) **Non-member Scopes** ó If someone from the general public brings a telescope it is the responsibility of the host or their designee to:
 - a) Check such telescope for **safety (see item #1)**.
 - b) **Determine whether the owner is knowledgeable enough** to safely act as an attendant in lieu of a VAS member.
 - c) Clearly **explain the requirement** for the scope to be attended at all time (see item #2). **Introduce the floater(s) to the person**.
 - d) If it is decided the **owner is not knowledgeable enough and a VAS member is not available** as an attendant **or the owner is not willing** to let a VAS member attend the scope, **the person must be told that due to liability issues they cannot use their scope at this event**.