



East Longmeadow Public Library Telescope Policy

The East Longmeadow Public Library has a telescope available for circulation to East Longmeadow residents aged 18 or older with a current and valid CW/Mars library card. Patrons may borrow the telescope to take home for use.

History

In February 2018, this incredible new acquisition was provided to the library through the generous donation of The Friends Of The East Longmeadow Public Library. The Friends purchased the Orion StarBlast 4.5 inch Altazimuth Reflector Tabletop Telescope from the Aldrich Astronomical Society. This is a quality instrument, reviewed by a number of astronomical publications and found quite worthy and beneficial to our library community.

The East Longmeadow Public Library is now considered a part of the library telescope program, through the Aldrich Astronomical Society. The Aldrich Astronomical Society places telescopes in local public libraries allowing greater general access to the telescope since they can be put into circulation -just like a book. The program uses the Orion StarBlast 4.5" reflector which is modified to make the telescope more patron friendly and durable for library use. A member of the society will periodically maintain (clean and adjust) the telescope at the library as needed and act as a local astronomical resource to The East Longmeadow Public Library and its patrons. The goal is to foster scientific literacy, stimulate an interest in astronomy and to provide library patrons the opportunity to look through a telescope and experience the excitement that comes from discovery. The society will always remain available for maintenance, repair and promotional activities. Although the telescope has proven to be quite durable, if the telescope breaks or needs maintenance, the library will be responsible for contacting the society and the society volunteer will be designated for assistance. This is all part of The Aldrich Astronomical Society's Library Telescope Program.

Telescope Borrowing Guidelines

- The telescope may only be checked out to East Longmeadow Public Library patrons who are 18 year of age or older.
- The telescope may be borrowed for one (1) week with no renewals.
- Children under age 18 must be supervised by an adult while using the telescope.

60 Center Square, Suite 2
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
413-525-5400 ext. 8
www.eastlongmeadowlibrary.org

- The telescope may be reserved by placing a hold on the telescope, contacting the East Longmeadow Public Library 413-525-5400 ext. 1511 and request a staff member to place a hold on this item, in person, or by emailing the library at elpubliclibrary@gmail.com
- The borrower must sign the Library Telescope Borrowing Agreement.
- The telescope must be transported in a vehicle and secured safely in the provided tote with the enclosed pillows with the eyepiece and EZ-Finder positioned up towards the lid so it will not be damaged.
- The telescope must remain with the cardholder. Do not loan the telescope to others.
- The telescope and its equipment will be inspected by a staff member and review a checklist before check out and after its return.
- The telescope must be picked up at and returned back only to the East Longmeadow Public Library location and handed directly to a staff member by the end of library hours. The telescope should not be left unattended at the circulation desk or outside the library building. If the circulation desk is unattended, borrowers must find a staff member to assist them.
- The telescope may not be returned to the book drop, return slot, the Information Desk or the Children's Desk.
- Borrowers are responsible for reading the instruction manual and ensuring their familiarity with procedures, proper care and use of the telescope. This instruction manual is found and remains with the telescope. *Never look directly at the sun through the telescope or its finder scope.*
- Borrowers may be subject to additional fines for lost or damaged parts of the telescope or telescope kit, as outlined in the Library Telescope Borrowing Agreement.
- Financial Responsibility and Borrowing Privileges will be suspended for extreme damage to the telescope or failure to return the telescope. Borrowing Privileges will resume once full payment is received for the repair to the damaged telescope or purchase of a new telescope at the current cost for replacement.

The telescope is equipped with zoom eye pieces and is accompanied with complete instructional materials. It is very sturdy, easy to use, and comes completely assembled. The telescope is of manageable size, but has a relatively large optical tube. This means that the moon and deep sky objects will show far more detail than one could see with the common "beginner's" telescope. It also has a large field of view that allows the object to stay in the eyepiece longer.

Storage

The telescope is stored at the East Longmeadow Public Library in a durable plastic tote and secured with two pillows for easy transportation. The total weight is approximately 25 lbs. It is

easy for patrons to take out and place on top of a sturdy table outdoors for nighttime viewing of the moon, stars and planets. It has strong base and therefore no tri-pods are needed and there is nothing to assemble.

Safety

The East Longmeadow Public Library will not be held liable for any injuries resulting from the use of the telescope. *Never look directly at the sun through the telescope or its finder scope.* Permanent eye damage can result. Do not even point the telescope at the sun, as parts of the telescope may melt. Do not wipe or clean the lens. Damage will result to the protective coating. For optimal viewing, get away from as many lights as you can to allow better viewing of the nighttime sky. This is a nighttime telescope.

Disclaimer

The East Longmeadow Public Library is not responsible for any liability, damages, or expense resulting from use or misuse of the telescope. *Any situation not covered by this policy will be reviewed and acted upon by the Library Director.*

Please report any problems or issues with the telescope to a library staff member as soon as possible.

References:

<https://www.librarytelescope.org/>

<https://www.aldrich.club/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AldrichAstro/>

<https://springfieldmuseums.org/about/springfield-science-museum/seymour-planetarium/>

https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/news-display.cfm?News_ID=931

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees March 17, 2021

East Longmeadow Public Library

www.eastlongmeadowlibrary.org

Telescope Borrowing Agreement

The Orion Starblast Telescope is to be used for viewing astronomical events, learning more about our solar system and the stars, developing a greater appreciation for the earth's place in the universe, and for fun.

Patron Eligibility

- Patrons must be age 18 and over and have valid photo identification.
- Patrons must have a library account in good standing.

Loan Period

- The telescope will circulate for one week.
- The telescope must be picked up and returned to the circulation desk.
- The telescope may not be renewed.

Patron Responsibility

- Patrons accept full financial liability for the telescope and agree to pay all costs associated with the damage to, loss of, or theft of the telescope.
- Patrons agree to inform library staff regarding any issues with items (broken pieces, dead batteries, lost items, etc.)
- Patrons will not attempt to alter the structure or any of the equipment of the telescope or any of the contents of the container.
- Patrons take responsibility for reading the telescope instruction manual and guide for how to properly use the telescope.
- Patrons are required to power down any battery power source on the telescope when returning the telescope.

- A fee of \$5 per day will be levied for every day the telescope is overdue.
- The following fees will be assessed for damaged, lost, or stolen items:
 - Telescope
 - Loss of telescope \$300
 - Damage to telescope up to \$300
 - Energizer Headlamp \$18.00
 - National Audubon Society Pocket Guide: Constellations \$10.00
 - Red Pouch \$9.00
 - Starmap/Instructions \$6.00
 - Sterilite Container \$15.00
 - Protective Pillows \$11 each

Total Replacement Cost With All Items \$380.00

East Longmeadow Public Library is not responsible for any bodily damage caused by use of the telescope (i.e. blindness ensuing from looking at the sun through the telescope.)

My signature below indicates that I have read the Telescope Borrowing Agreement and that I agree to abide by these conditions of use when checking out a telescope from the East Longmeadow Public Library.

I agree that failure to comply with any of these rules and guidelines may result in the loss of borrowing privileges.

Patron Name: _____

I have received the Proper Care and Use Instructions: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Staff Use Only:

Patron Library Card Number: _____

Photo ID checked against patron record: _____

Staff Initials: _____

Date checked out: _____

Checked In: _____