

Where can I fly model rockets?

The simple answer is...anywhere that there is sufficient open space. (The Model Rocketry Safety Code lists recommended field sizes for different rocket engines.) It used to be that you could launch rockets almost anywhere; unfortunately, things aren't so simple these days. The best place to fly rockets is on private property, but please get permission from the landowner first. The local public park or the local school athletic fields used to be convenient places to launch rockets. However, in these liability-paranoid days, rockets are prohibited in a lot of public areas. Don't simply assume that you can launch rockets at the local soccer fields; find out first if it is allowed. (Otherwise you can get yourself in trouble!) Sometimes you can develop a relationship with your local school principal or local park superintendent. Explain to them that rockets are not fireworks. Describe the rockets and how they are safely recovered after each launch. Reassure them that the activities will be conducted in a safe manner; give them a copy of the Model Rocketry Safety Code. Many times, rocketry activities are prohibited by people who don't know anything about them; it is up to us to educate these people if we want to continue enjoying the hobby.

Are there any groups or clubs that launch rockets locally?

Joining a rocket club can be a great way to meet people, learn more about the hobby, and have lots of fun. Plus, clubs have already made special arrangements (usually including special insurance) to use private or public property for their regular club launches. Just remember, their launch locations are usually only available for official club launches.

MASA - Minnesota Amateur Spacemodeler Association. MASA is chapter #576 of the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). MASA dues are \$10 per year for an individual or \$12 per year for a family. MASA has a club meeting on the first Thursday and a club launch on the fourth Saturday of each month. Anyone is welcome to fly rockets at MASA launches, but non-MASA members are limited to rockets that weigh less than one pound and use nothing larger than a D engine. You can be a member of MASA without belonging to the NAR. MASA's current emphasis is on model rockets (D engines and smaller) and large model rockets (E through G engines). For lots of information on MASA, check out their web site at <http://www.mn-rocketry.net/masa> or contact Mike Erpelding at masa@mn-rocketry.net or by calling (320) 764-9303.

MN TRA - Tripoli Minnesota is a local "prefecture" of the Tripoli Rocketry Association (TRA). They have a launch (held near North Branch, north of the Twin Cities) on the second Saturday of most summer months with meetings held during the winter. You must either be a MN Tripoli member (dues are \$40 per year) to launch rockets or you must pay a \$10 daily launch fee. Membership in either TRA or the NAR is required of those wishing to launch rockets. MN Tripoli's emphasis is on large model rockets and high power rockets (H engines and larger). For more information, contact Dave Leininger at davele@cornelius.com or by calling (763) 433-9198. MN Tripoli has a web site at <http://www.tripolimn.org>

National Association of Rocketry: <http://www.nar.org>

Tripoli Rocketry Association: <http://www.tripoli.org>

For more information on rocketry in Minnesota... <http://www.mn-rocketry.net/mrn>