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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ROCKET ASSOCIATION

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## SECTION SUPERVISED AND CONTROLLED MODEL ROCKET LAUNCH PROCEDURE

- WHY?:** Rocket launching at parks or schools requires the same permissions as any other site in California (written permission of the property owner and a permit from the Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction). For the general public this is very difficult or impossible to obtain. For school teachers this is a bit easier. The reason for this is public safety concerns. Some individuals ruin it for everyone by violating the state regulations and [NAR Model Rocket Safety Code](#) by flying rockets that exceed legal power limits and/or using rocket motors that do not bear the Seal of the State Fire Marshal. Some of these can crash outside of the park or school yard and therefore present a hazard that cannot be ignored by officials. Our club ([SCRA](#)) is the local section of the non-profit National Association of Rocketry ([NAR](#)). We contacted officials concerning this situation. We were assured that our club has never been the source of this type of problem and they were willing to hear suggestions on how to prevent violations while allowing Model Rocket launching to be permitted. They reasoned that the only way to maximize public safety was to only allow fully supervised launches with each model & motor/engine "safety inspected".
- WHAT?:** Model rocket launches - supervised and controlled by the Southern California Rocket Association ([SCRA](#)) of the NAR, conducted with the approval of the property owner and a permit from the Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction.
- WHO?:** Model rocket launching service will be provided to anyone 14 years of age or older. If you are under 14 years old, you must have a parent or legal guardian present and they will be the one who processes the model through "safety check" (you may accompany them to learn). You bring the models, engines, wadding and igniters. We provide free launch pads. You may use your own launch pad and controller (under our supervision) provided it passes "safety check". We **strongly** recommend you carry liability insurance for your model rocketry activities. The [NAR](#) or AMA offer insurance for their members and many homeowner's policies also cover you for hobby activities.
- HOW?:** You fill out a [flight card](#) and take the card, your model "prepped" for flight (flameproof wadding installed, recovery system folded properly and packed) and the **uninstalled engine(s)** with igniter(s) to the safety check-in table. We will safety check your model and verify that the engine is NAR certified and bears the Seal of the California State Fire Marshal. Check the [SCRA](#) newsletter/"Calendar of Events" for any power or altitude restrictions for the launch site you are attending. If your model and engine comply with the [NAR Model Rocket Safety Code](#) (and pass the above mentioned check) you will be given approval to fly and if you are using our SCRA launch system you will be given a launch pad position/number. Then, upon approval from the Launch Control Officer (LCO), you may enter the launch pad area and hook up your rocket to the central launch control system. The LCO will launch each rocket after giving a countdown over the P.A. system. You are then free to recover your model. If you are using your own launch system, you must process it through "safety check". Upon passing the "safety check". When the LCO gives you approval, you will enter the launch pad area and set up your launch system. You then safety check-in your models when you are ready and put them on your own pad and hook them up to your own controller when you are given permission to enter the launch area. Keep the safety key out unless checking continuity. You must stand by your controller (parents must stand next to and be in control of children) and when it's time to launch, the LCO will have you insert the safety key and then provide a countdown over the P.A. system. You will launch your own rocket and remove the safety key immediately after launch! When you are done launching for the day, remove your launch system from the launch area. **THE SAFETY CHECK OFFICER AND LCO HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO LAUNCH ANY MODEL ROCKET IF FOR ANY REASON THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT IT MAY POSE A SAFETY HAZARD OR WILL FLY OUT OF THE AREA!! ENGINES/MOTORS THAT VIOLATE ANY REGULATION OR LAW ARE SUBJECT TO CONFISCATION AND WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES!!** We will offer advice to you if your model or launch system needs to be repaired to make them "flightworthy" or to comply with the [NAR Model Rocket Safety Code](#) and NFPA 1122. **Success and fun are our goals, so we will help you if we can!**
- WHERE &**
- WHEN?:** See the current copy of the [SCRA](#) newsletter/"Calendar of Events" for locations and times of our regularly scheduled launches. (Launch days can *sometimes* be added to accommodate Scout or youth groups and will not be advertised in the club newsletter. If you need this service, **call us well in advance** so that we can coordinate with the appropriate officials.)
- ALSO:** We will continue to provide classes that introduce beginners to model rocketry. These classes will teach you the basics (how they work, how to build them, how to get them ready to fly, the [Safety Code](#), etc.). Consult your [SCRA](#) newsletter for class dates, locations and times. We also can provide classes for teachers and youth group leaders to help you learn how to conduct your own successful model rocketry program. Call if you have any questions: (714) 529-1598 (evenings).