

ANSA's Dark-Sky Festival Scout Program

The 2023 Arkansas Dark-sky Festival will include a workshop for Boy and Girl Scouts to earn their organization's astronomy-related badges. In addition, ANSA is offering a special Dark Sky program for scouts participating in certain of the Festival's education events. Both the workshop and the Dark Sky program for scouts are free. An option Dark Sky Event patch (\$3.50) is available for those who intend to complete the Dark Sky program requirements.

Registration is required to participate in the festival and the scouting program. Please review the [Festival website](#), where you can download a Festival Guide and register. Scouts can register as individuals or troops can register as a group.



Astronomy Merit Badge Program

Dr. Katherine Auld, who is chair of the Northwest Arkansas Community College dept. of physical science, and an experienced scout leader will hold a workshop at the pavilion of the Tyler Bend campground located off Hwy. 65 north of Marshall Arkansas on the Buffalo National River starting at 10:00 A.M. September 16th. The Observing activities required for the badges will occur at the Dark Sky Festival, being held two miles south of Tyler Bend on the grounds of Bear Creek Cabins, the evenings of the 15th and 16th, weather permitting.

Scout Dark Sky Program and Event Patch

Scouts attending the Arkansas Dark-Sky Festival who complete the following program can qualify for ANSA's Dark-Sky Event Patch:

1. Checking off at least 15 of the 30 items in Rocky Togni's celestial scavenger hunt. This can be accomplished by observing with the naked eye the brighter stars and constellations, participating in a guided constellation tour, using binoculars and/or observing the designated objects through telescopes during the evening star parties. Alternatively, in the event of cloudy skies, attend at least one of the cloudy sky presentation/activities.
2. In the daytime during the festival:
 - a. Attend the light pollution presentation – An Overview of The Light Pollution Problem and Solutions.
 - b. Visit the ANSA table to learn about responsible lighting and how to measure light pollution near your home using the Globe at Night method.

While not required, you will get more out of the experience if you follow up at home with these activities:

1. Perform the [Dark-Sky Friendly Home Survey](#) and share the results with your parents (changes to home lighting are not required)
2. Find a spot near your home where you can see a fairly open sky (parking lot, sports field, etc.) and using the [Globe at Night website](#), measure and report the limiting magnitude of your sky.
3. While there, identify all the constellations and bright stars you can.

If you make it a point to repeat steps two and three from time to time, you will learn the sky in no time and provide useful data for the globe at night project as a citizen scientist.