

ANSA's Dark-Sky Festival Scout Program

Signing Up

The Arkansas Dark-sky Festival will include a workshop for Boy and Girl Scouts to earn their astronomy-related badges. In addition, ANSA is offering a special Dark Sky Patch for scouts participating in certain of the Festival's educational events. The scout program is free, but unless you are part of a troop that has signed up as a troop, you must be registered for the festival and then register for the scout program [here](#). The optional Dark Sky Event patch is \$3.50 and can be purchased in the Event Store during regular festival registration. Troops can sign-up as a group [here](#). Individual Scout participating with their troop need not individually register for the festival or this program.



Dark Sky Festival Patch Requirements

Scouts can qualify for the patch by attending the Arkansas Dark-Sky Festival events below:

- a. Visit the responsible lighting table and exhibit to learn about the Light Pollution Problem and Solutions.
- b. Attend the presentation on how to measure light pollution near your home using the Globe at Night method.

Scout Astronomy Merit Badge and Girl Scout Stars

Dr. Katherine Auld is chair of the Northwest Arkansas Community College dept. of physical science, and an experienced scout leader. She will direct a workshop at the pavilion at Bear Creek, which is located off Hwy 65 north of Marshall, Arkansas, September 20th at 1:00 PM. The Observing activities (Requirement 8b) for the badge will occur at the Dark Sky Festival at Bear Creek on the evenings of the 19th and 20th, weather permitting. Most other requirements will be covered at the workshop, but some - Requirements 4a, 4b, 4c, and 6b will have to be completed before, during, or after the event.

Citizen Science 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 Citizen Science [Globe at Night Project 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 this and the Globe at Night observations several times, you will learn about the sky and provide useful data as a citizen scientist.