

Hill Country Night Sky Month Event Suggestions

Virtual Star Party

Plan an Instagram or Facebook live tour of our night sky with an astronomer. HCA can help you identify and connect with the experts needed to offer a virtual star party for your community. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end. Contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org

Night Sky Essay Contest

Invite your community to share their writing about the night sky to promote dark sky friendly lighting and night sky preservation in your community. Be creative! The Hill Country Alliance Night Skies team will promote contest winners through tune-in events hosted by us during Hill Country Night Sky Month. Promote your contest through social media, Facebook and/or Instagram and your website. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end too.

Night Sky Art Contest

Invite your community to share their art about the night sky to promote dark sky friendly lighting and night sky preservation in your community. Be creative! The Hill Country Alliance Night Skies team will promote contest winners through tune-in events hosted by us during Hill Country Night Sky Month. Promote your contest through social media, Facebook and/or Instagram and your website. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end too.

Night Sky Photography Contest

Invite your community to share their night time photography as well as photography of dark sky friendly lighting in your community. Be creative! The Hill Country Alliance Night Skies team will promote contest winners through tune-in events hosted by us during Hill Country Night Sky Month. Promote your contest through social media, Facebook and/or Instagram and your website. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end too.

Night Sky Video Contest

Invite your community to share short videos about the night sky to promote dark sky friendly lighting and night sky preservation in your community. Be creative! The Hill Country Alliance Night Skies team will promote contest winners through tune-in events hosted by us during Hill Country Night Sky Month. Promote your contest through social media, Facebook and/or

Instagram and your website. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end too.

Better Lighting Contest

Invite your local community, neighbors, businesses and/or government to make a new [night sky friendly lighting](#) retrofit or installation of dark sky friendly lighting. Invite them to share their commitment to preserving night skies by posting a before and after photo through social media to celebrate Hill Country Night Sky Month. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Costume Contest

Invite your community to dress up to honor the night sky for Halloween. Adorn yourself as an astronaut, engineer, space traveler, Dr. Who, an alien or anything that makes you want to marvel at the wonders of the universe above our heads. Share photographs and submit photos of your community wearing their costumes through social media to celebrate Hill Country Night Sky Month. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Panel Discussion: Impacts of Light Pollution on Central Texas Wildlife

HCA can help you identify and connect with the experts needed to create an educational talk or panel for your event. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end. Contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org

Webinar- Hill Country Night Sky Month 2020

Host a webinar discussing the proper use of lighting. [Proper lighting](#) plays an important role in the achievement of greater energy efficiency, in particular by limiting energy waste, and in the reduction of light pollution, which is key to the preservation of dark skies. HCA can help you identify and connect with the experts you can invite to speak. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Citizen Science- Globe at Night

Invite your community to participate in the monthly [Globe at Night citizen science campaign](#) which is October 8-17, 2020 and create a goal of a set number of observations. [Globe at Night](#) is an international citizen-science campaign to raise public awareness of the impact of light pollution by inviting citizen-scientists to measure and submit their night sky brightness observations. You can take this one step further and join the Globe at Night Adopt a Street Program. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end. Contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org for any questions.

Stellar Stories and/or Songs

Tell star stories either live or pre-recorded that people can listen to while looking up at the night sky. You can also do this on Facebook, Youtube or Instagram live or post pre-recorded. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Invite an author

Invite an author to read their book or an excerpt of their story and share with your audience live or pre-recorded. There are a number of books on light pollution and the night sky written for adults and children. Contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org for a list of potential authors. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Read a story to kids

Invite kids and families to listen to a bedtime story about the night sky using Facebook live or other online platforms. Suggested books: [“Cassandra and the Night Sky” by Amy Jackson](#), [“There Once was a Sky Full of Stars” by Bob Crelin](#), [“Good Night Sky: A Children’s Bedtime Story” by E.M. Makins](#). Contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org if you have any questions. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Partner with a Home Improvement Business

Partner with Home Depot or Lowe’s or local shop to sponsor a [lighting retrofit](#) for a business or location and post it on social media . Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Conduct a lighting survey

Download this guide (link needed) to conducting a lighting survey and go out to your local school, section of your neighborhood or town/city and survey the lighting. Use this as a way to cheer on the usage of [proper night sky lighting](#) or to promote positive change in the existing lighting. Use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

Night Sky Friendly Business Recognition Program

Take the first step towards becoming a Night Sky Friendly Business and start the process. [Visit our webpage](#) for more information about the [Night Sky Friendly Business](#) program and/or contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org.

Become a Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood

Take the first step towards becoming a Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood by encouraging your neighborhood to sign an online petition with the intent to implement this program in your neighborhood. [Visit our webpage](#) for more information about this program and/or contact us at info@hillcountryalliance.org.

Share the stars with kids

-Be a citizen scientist and participate in the [Globe at Night](#) program.

-[Family Sky Heroes activity](#) from the ASP

-[Dark Sky Rangers](#)

-Earn your Dark Sky Defenders badge sponsored by the Hays County Friends of the Night Sky

-Learn how to design a night sky friendly light shield with materials from home

-Insects, animals, many wildlife species and plants are impacted by light pollution.

Draw/Paint/Collage/Sculpt your favorite living thing that is impacted by light pollution. Submit it on your parent's social media and use HCNSM hashtags and handles so we can promote it on our end.

-Learn how to find constellations using [Uncle Al's Skywheels](#) or [Skymaps.com](#)

Become a member of your local Friends of the Night Sky group

The Texas Hill Country is home to a growing number of [Friends of the Night Sky groups](#) throughout the Texas Hill Country region. Join your county's group. If your county does not have a group started yet, contact the Hill Country Alliance to start one: info@hillcountryalliance.org

Become a member of the Texas Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association

The International Dark Sky Association began its mission to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting in 1988. [Join the Texas Chapter of the IDA](#) and support their efforts, connect with other dark sky advocates from around your region, share resources and become a member of the worldwide movement.