

Friends of the Night Sky Group, getting started:

This document is a guide to help with the development of a Friends of the Night Sky group in the Hill Country. It is meant to help clarify thinking and put some action-steps in order. There is no need to stick to this plan if there is another clear path your group wishes to pursue!

- Phase 1: Organize the group
 - Formalize as a standalone nonprofit association registered with the county OR as a committee of an existing non-profit. (Both are easy; neither requires IRS paperwork)
 - Create a logo. (The Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky have offered to share their logo with any group wishing to adapt it.)
 - Create a Facebook page (and optional website).
 - Start an email list for your core group, and one for the neighbors you want to stay in touch with.
 - Determine some starting objectives based on the interests in your core group and the needs in your county.

- Phase 2: Introduce the group to community leaders and potential partners:
 - Leaders to meet with include:
 - County Judge and Commissioners
 - City officials and city staff
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Newspaper publishers
 - Who else?
 - Let leaders know about:
 - The group's purpose and collaborative nature
 - The Hill Country Night Sky Month in October (ask for resolutions recognizing the Month, especially from the County Commissioners)
 - The Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program and the availability of the subdivision policy/HOA language
 - Other objectives
 - Begin thinking about strategic partners for a Hill Country Night Sky Month event in October. Reach out to potential partners to gauge their interest in collaborating on an event.

- Phase 3: Work with partners to pursue objectives, including a program for Hill Country Night Sky Month