

Wild About Dark Skies Festival

How to get involved - 2025



We are inviting Parishes, 'Wild About...' groups, community groups, astronomical societies, and other organisations across the High Weald National Landscape to take part in the [Wild about Dark Skies Festival 2025](#).

Grant funding is available to support eligible events through the High Weald Nature and Community Fund. Please see the event sign-up form for details of what we can cover.

Your contribution to the festival can be as big or small as you wish – you can hold one event or multiple celebrations. Activities could include:

- Family Star party – fun activities for children, games, craft and puzzles
- Dark Sky photography exhibition
- Mobile Planetarium show
- Stargazing demonstrations with astronomy groups
- Talks from special guest speakers
- Leading a dark skies walk

Interested in taking part? Read through this guidance and contact s.nicholas@highweald.org to sign up.

Your commitment - you will need to:

- Organise and run your event, including recruiting volunteers if needed
- Organise venue and refreshments if needed
- Carry out your own local publicity (see below for how we can help)
- Set up and manage your booking system (if needed)
- Complete your own risk assessments
- Liaise with guest speakers for the details of your event
- Hire equipment such as microphones and speakers
- Ensure you have you are covered by Public Liability.

What funding could I receive to support my event?

The High Weald National Landscape team has received funding for 3-year festival programme through the High Weald Nature and Community Fund, supported by Lund Trust.

We can support the costs of:

- Project management
- Event hire for venues, equipment ie sound systems, planetarium, volunteer costs, and refreshments
- Cost of guest presenters or workshops
- Printing costs

How we can support you:

You won't be on your own when hosting your event; the High Weald Team can provide:

- Guidance leaflet on how to hold a dark skies walk
- Risk assessment templates for events and walks
- Support with booking guest speakers who can speak about stars, light pollution or wildlife
- Publicity guidance with written materials ready to go – just tweak it to your needs. This will include templates for social media content, posters and leaflets.

We will support your events through our own PR and social media channels, including listing your event on our Wild About Dark Skies event webpage.

Examples of additional speakers/workshops for your events:

- Dark Skies stories – led by High Weald Education Officer
- Astronomical presentations or walks
- Bat conservation talks
- Light pollution workshops – led by High Weald team

You may also use our Dark Skies toolbox which includes:

- Light pollution workshop material
- Giant dark skies floor puzzle
- 'How to reduce light pollution' leaflets
- 3 x Wild About Dark Skies pull-up banners
- Dark Skies colouring competition image
- Light meters
- Light box showing good and bad lighting
- Bat detector and moth trap
- Red torches to support walks or events

Please note all of the above will be dependent on availability!

If you are interested in running your own event and joining the festival, please contact Samantha.nicholas@highweald.org

You will then receive a Wild About Dark Skies Event partnership form to complete, sign and return.

PLEASE NOTE: Availability of some of our resources (eg the toolkit) will be dependent on date your event is held. We will create a shared calendar so you can see which dates are free.

How can I find out more?

If you would like to help volunteer during these events please contact:

Samantha Nicholas, High Weald Dark Skies Coordinator: info@highweald.org

Don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help with anything else.

Good luck!

High Weald National Landscape team