

FOUNTAIN HILLS DARK SKY FESTIVAL STUDENT ART CONTEST



THEME: Nocturnal Wildlife under the Night Sky

Animals who are active at night are called “nocturnal.” They usually have special adaptations for living at night. This can include large eyes for seeing in low light, a heightened sense of hearing and smell, and the ability to navigate using the light of the Milky

Way.

When humans use more light at night than they need, or shine it into places beyond their homes, streets, and sidewalks, we call it light pollution. Light pollution makes life difficult for nocturnal animals. Newly born sea turtles wander away from the sea instead of toward it, fireflies can’t see the light of their mates, mice have a harder time hiding from owls, and moths wear themselves out circling a light instead of eating so it can stay healthy.

The Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association helps the people of our community learn how they can do easy things to protect the nocturnal animals in our desert. We show people how to shield their lights so the light doesn’t spill into animal habitats or into the sky, how to choose a warmer colored light to protect the night vision of animals and to attract fewer moths, and to use motion-activated lights to provide light only when you need it.

In this year’s Student Art Contest, we encourage you to learn about some nocturnal animals and then create a piece of art based on nocturnal wildlife under the night sky. We love the moon, planets, stars, and Milky Way and hope to see it creatively shown with your nocturnal animal(s).

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

- <https://animalsake.com/nocturnal-animals-list>
- <https://www.desertmuseum.org/kids/oz/long-fact-sheets/Title%20Page.php>
- <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife/>
- Great video from International Dark Sky Association:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooLYWwA43SE&feature=emb_imp_woyt