

Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction

Award Process and Application

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©International Dark-Sky Association

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Introduction:

The Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction Award, is an award program through the International Dark-Sky Association for small communities, subdivisions, and developments that have promoted sensitive outdoor lighting in an effort to preserve their environment from unnecessary light at night, including but not limited to light trespass, glare, and skyglow. The award is designed to garner community support for environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. Additionally, a development that incorporates a quality night sky or designates a sensitive wildlife refuge will receive preference in the program.

Objectives:

- To identify developments¹ with exceptional commitment to **and** success in implementing the ideals of night sky preservation and restoration, and their promotion of environmentally sensitive outdoor lighting;
- To provide recognition for such developments;
- To promote the ideals of the International Dark-Sky Association by encouraging developments, and the communities in which these developments are located, to identify natural night skies as a valuable asset and goal.

Process:

- Nomination by IDA member in good standing, with supporting signatures of at least two additional IDA members, two from outside the development receiving the nomination, and supporting information to demonstrate that the minimum requirements have been met;
- Official supporting letter for nomination from a representative of the community where the development is planned, such as a council member or mayor;
- If a Home Owner's Association is present, a supporting letter from the HOA board, indicating their support for natural night skies, is required;
- Approval of nomination by the IDA Staff and local/regional Section.

Minimum Requirements:

1. A quality comprehensive lighting scheme and guidelines (to be submitted with the award application) with the following minimum standards:
 - Full shielding on all roadway lighting
 - Warranting for all roadway lighting
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¹ Development, in this case, means any subdivision or master planned community, by one developer/builder or more, that is not in and of itself an incorporated municipality or that may otherwise be construed as a large scale "community".

- Dusk-to-dawn lighting prohibited unless warranted
 - All decorative fixtures should be selected with “good neighbor lighting”² criteria.
 - Initial development design guidelines must select luminaires that reduce excessive light at night, glare, and light trespass. HOAs, or similar governing regulations, must require replacement luminaires comply with these requirements.
 - Exceptions may be made with lamps under 1000 lumens initial lamp output (or equivalent wattages)
2. Developers and residents commitment to dark skies and environmentally sensitive lighting:
- Support of dark skies and sensitive lighting as indicated through community publications, flyers, PSAs, etc. (these are examples only, other provisions may be applicable)
 - Community awareness activities open to the public to promote natural night skies, such as star parties, or other such events
 - Efforts to engage those outside of and directly surrounding the community in nighttime protection activities
3. Success in light pollution control:
- Examples of the lighting scheme and its successful implementation (a minimum of three examples is required, more may be necessary depending on the total acreage and housing units per development)
 - If any unshielded fixtures are installed, a documentation of their use, total lumen output, and photographs of their installation are required
 - Special recognition will be given to developments in Bortle Scale 1, 2, or 3 communities or to communities that have taken an active role in preserving an ecologically important refuge in addition to promoting innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly developments and operating practices

Benefits:

Designation as a Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction entitles the development to display the corresponding logos and award certificate in official development publications and promotions. IDA will maintain a Web page identifying and describing all Developments of Distinction. Designation as a Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction is permanent, but subject to possible revocation upon request, and review of the request, of any active IDA member.

² “Good Neighbor Lighting” indicates a reduction in glare and light trespass from the selected luminaire.