

# Nighttime & NAU

NAU's Mountain Campus is proud of its partnerships with others to protect northern Arizona's extraordinary nighttime environment while simultaneously creating and maintaining a secure community on campus.



Flagstaff is the World's First International Dark Sky City, recognized around the planet for visionary leadership and public policy. For decades NAU has played an important role in that achievement. If lost, the unspoiled northern Arizona night-sky will be difficult, if not impossible, to reclaim.

Northern Arizona University considers an unspoiled night sky to be a key research-asset held in trust for our state's residents and visitors from around the globe. NAU continues to support Flagstaff's worldwide leadership in night-sky protections and its historic contributions to astronomy—NAU is a partner in Lowell Observatory's 4.3m Discovery Channel Telescope. The University is also aware of the complex nocturnal impacts on human and animal welfare, the local economy, energy consumption, land-use, the arts, and other related disciplines. The nighttime ecosystem is a growing area of academic research and NAU is already investigating new pathways to study the night and its affects.



NAU works consistently on campus and beyond to improve resident-safety through innovative technologies, student education, parental involvement, and civic associations. Law enforcement is a permanent contributor to discussions about how to make and keep NAU an optimal place to live and learn.

**Technology:** Beyond the brightness of lighting, different lights have different component colors (spectra). Using the right amount of light, the right color of light, and having fixtures that direct the light only when and where it's needed, are all part of NAU's sophisticated lighting achievements; a demonstration of good practices that can be applied elsewhere.



**Safety**: NAU's yellow ambient lighting has less glare than many over-lit cities, and some visitors think that means less brightness. However, an evenly lit landscape offers the best visibility. Students are educated about personal responsibility and how to conduct themselves in a smart manner during both nighttime and daytime travels; whether on campus or off campus. Blue-Light security phones and University Escorts are also available.

**Sustainability**: NAU – like individuals, families, and nations – must be thoughtful in our use of resources, and must avoid waste wherever possible. In the United States alone, more than one billion dollars is wasted every year on useless, upward-shining light.

Generations of students have enjoyed NAU's beautiful nights. The natural night sky is part of what makes NAU unique and it's proof of the university's environmental commitment. NAU has an extended record of positive leadership regarding respect for the night sky and its values, and works hard to reflect the priorities and concerns of its neighbors. Flagstaff City and Coconino County are established leaders in protection of the night's darkness, and NAU is honored to be part of this historic partnership. In this area of campus-life – as elsewhere – we work to be an institution producing real social benefits that can be shared with others.

*If you have questions about the history of night sky protection both on campus and around northern Arizona, please contact the NAU Office of Sustainability for a more complete explanation of how NAU works with the night to generate new and exciting educational opportunities, while keeping our campus a community in which all people feel safe and inspired.*

**NAU Office of Sustainability – (928) 523-1791**

**[green@nau.edu](mailto:green@nau.edu)**