

SAGAS is a co-operative which allows member societies to share both their good and bad experiences for the benefits of other societies. This list is a summary of some of the benefits of joining and contributing to the organisation particularly for those societies who have not yet become members. The list is not exhaustive and will develop as societies contribute material for the benefit of others.

1) Sharing Experiences

SAGAS provides a forum via the quarterly business meetings to discuss problems with other societies who may already have solved them and learn best practice. Societies who are unable to attend are still able to contribute by receiving copies of the minutes and by contributing written reports and questions via the meeting chairman or SAGAS Secretary

2) Strength in Numbers

20+ societies representing over 1,000 astronomers have a much stronger voice for local, regional & national problems

3) Society Publicity

Publicity is important for all societies to help them to attract new members. The locations of all SAGAS Societies are shown on the maps on the SAGAS web site and we provide links to your own web site and a brief description. If you don't have a web site yet we will provide a page with the description of your society and contact details.

4) Promoting Best Practice

Sharing of best practice via information leaflets. We already have a leaflet on 'How to Organise a Star Party' and are developing a list of places for astronomical societies to visit. There are a number of others we intend to develop when we find volunteers.

5) Event Publicity

We provide publicity for special events that your society has organised (e.g. Isle of Wight Star Party) via the SAGAS web site.

6) SAGAS Newsletter

We produce 'SAGAS Off-Line', a free PDF format E-zine for distribution to Society members to keep them abreast of what is going on. This also allows you to publicise any special astronomical events you are organising.

7) FAS Input

Member societies have a direct link into the Federation of Astronomical Societies (FAS) by having a SAGAS Representative attending FAS Council meetings on your behalf. You can raise any issue direct with the rep who will raise it at a council meetings and also communicate back to you with feedback from the FAS council

8) **Representation of Member Societies**

We can represent member societies at events such as the Astronomy Festival at the Herstmonceux Science Centre. We can display and distribute your publicity and recruitment material on your behalf, thus saving you considerable time and effort.

9) **Discounts for Members**

We encourage discounts for the members of SAGAS Societies attending SAGAS events.

10) **Promotional Equipment**

SAGAS have, to lend to member societies, display boards and other materials (Moon globe) to help and assist in promoting their group wherever a display board or such material is required. This may prove beneficial for a society and give them much needed publicity while saving them considerable time and money in purchasing their own display panels.

11) **Speakers List**

Our regular meetings allow you to meet speakers from other societies. We have an ongoing list of speakers in the SAGAS group area. We can also circulate requests for speakers on particular subjects to other member societies. This list is updated to SAGAS member societies regularly

12) **Improved Web Ranking**

Providing links to your Society from the SAGAS web site helps improve it's ranking with search engines so there is more likelihood of prospective members finding your society on the Web.

13) **Advice to New Societies**

Those starting a new Astronomical Society can get a lot of advice from the SAGAS Committee and established member Societies

14) **Joint Observing Projects**

SAGAS will help promote joint observing projects. These projects will benefit from the geographical range of societies and the range of skills, interests and facilities within the member societies.

15) **Web Site Presence**

If your society does not have a website or it breaks and you cannot fix it quickly SAGAS can provide a web page with details of your society and contact details. This will allow people who are searching the Internet for your society to get in touch with you either by phone or email.

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