

## The five golden rules

- Natteravnene (Night Owls) are visible and keep their eyes open. They **always** avoid intervening in disturbances, etc. - but call professional help if necessary.
- Natteravnene (Night Owls) **always** walk round in groups of **three**, wearing their “trademark”, the yellow jackets. Both men and women - irrespective of their ethnic background - are encouraged to take part.
- Natteravnene (Night Owls) are **always** outdoors, they never enter the clubs, pubs, discotheques, etc. where young people meet to enjoy themselves.
- Natteravnene (Night Owls) are **always** ready to listen and talk to youngsters - *when asked* - without preaching. If necessary, they rely on professional help or contact parents.
- Natteravnene (Night Owls) are **always** willing to help youngsters find their way home to friends or family. They never do this alone - and never give loans.



### Practical information

The work of Natteravnene (the Night Owls) is performed voluntarily by adults, in cooperation with local social welfare and educational authorities, the police, and business contacts.

Their main purpose is to be out and about among youngsters and by responsible action help prevent violence, vandalism, thoughtlessness and crime.

“Citizens meetings” are often held to inform new Natteravnene (Night Owls) and maintain contact with other interests such as schools, associations, companies and public bodies.

Natteravnene (Night Owls) are offered courses on the ethics, skills and knowledge which will enable them show their presence and help in the best way possible. The courses also inform Natteravnene (Night Owls) about the work of the social welfare and educational services, and the preventive duties of the police.

Natteravnene (Night Owls) are encouraged to carry a personal identification card.

Natteravnene (Night Owls) can be any *responsible adult*, irrespective of age, gender, physical disability, religion, political affiliation, or ethnic background.

Information on Natteravnene (the Night Owls) can be obtained from the Internet on:

[www.natteravnene.dk](http://www.natteravnene.dk)

*If you would like to know more about “walking around town as a sign of assurance”, call Natteravnene ( the Night Owls) on (+45) 70 12 12 99.*



**You can  
make a  
difference!**

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***Natteravnene (Night Owls) stand  
for more peace of mind in the locality.  
Their work is:***

***- good for youngsters***

***- good for you***

***- good for your town***

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**Natteravnene (Night Owls)  
in Denmark  
Tel.: (+45) 70 12 12 99**

## In brief:



### - “the people in the yellow jackets ...”

Natteravnene ("Night Owls") are ordinary grown-up people more than willing to spend time and effort in making the town a safer and better place, and who, with the backing of the local authorities, wish to help youngsters enjoy the amenities in the area in a happier and more secure atmosphere.

All responsible adults can take part, the only condition being that they are able to set a good example for youngsters.

The work is limited, in line with the wishes of participants (they can volunteer for duty from, say, once a month to once a year) and consists of walking through the area in threes, wearing special yellow jackets. They are often asked to do this in the late evening and at night, and by making themselves visible in this way help to create more peace of mind among people in the area.

Night Owls are not a security corps; they are definitely not an arm of officialdom.

Natteravnene (Night Owls) can be seen mainly on Friday and Saturday nights, and on public holidays or market days when youngsters are “out and about”.

Experience from the whole of Scandinavia shows that the work of Natteravnene (Night Owls) increases the feeling of neighbourhood security.

Their presence normally damps down over-exuberance, and youngsters appreciate the interest and concern shown in them.

Natteravnene (Night Owls) do not intervene in disturbances, but observe and are ready to help. They can, via their mobile telephones, call parents, an ambulance or the police if there is need.

Natteravnene (Night Owls) are offered courses in dealing with events on the streets. Subjects include first aid, the behaviour/psychology of young people, the effect of stimulants, the dividing line between their own work and that of official bodies, how police stations operate, etc.

***Natteravnene (A Night Owl) is an adult who has a sense of responsibility, is willing to listen, has a positive attitude, and is well-intentioned and honest.***

### A little effort has great effect

It is important that the largest possible number of local people, parents and grandparents - men and women - take part. In this way, individuals need not be called on so often; more people gain the opportunity of meeting youngsters on their own ground and share the responsibility for them outside their own homes. It is this vital that the organisation never becomes dominated by “old faithfuls”, but that as many people as possible take part and become ambassadors for the concept.

### Years of Scandinavian experience to draw on

The idea behind Natteravnene (the Night Owls) was developed by Skandia Insurance on the basis of experience in co-operating with social organisations in Sweden since the end of the 1980s.

Over 100,000 volunteers in more than 650 towns throughout Sweden and Norway have taken part.

The work resulted in happier youngsters and a significant drop (up to 50%) in the official figures on violence and vandalism.

The Night Owl organisation in Denmark was started in 1998. Every month new towns and new members are adopting the idea.

Contact with established organisations can be arranged by calling (45) 70 12 12 99.



### Cooperation across organisations

Natteravnene (Night Owls) cannot solve the problem alone. First and foremost it is parents and the youngsters themselves who must take greater responsibility. Natteravnene (The Night Owls) are very pleased with the good cooperation they receive from local authorities, the police and other various “sponsors”.