

# NIGHTSCAPE

## Dinosaur National Monument Designated as an International Dark Sky Park

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

to protect the night

### CHECK AROUND YOUR HOME

Shield outdoor lighting and angle your lights to minimize light trespass beyond your property lines.

### USE LIGHT ONLY WHEN AND WHERE YOU NEED IT

Motion detectors and timers can help. Use only the amount of light required for the task at hand.

### TALK TO NEIGHBORS AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Explain that poorly shielded fixtures waste energy, produce glare and reduce visibility.

**Dinosaur, Colorado and Jensen, Utah** – Dinosaur National Monument and the International Dark-Sky Association are pleased to announce the designation of Dinosaur as an International Dark Sky Park. This distinction recognizes the skies above Dinosaur as having an exceptional quality of natural darkness while efforts on the ground actively contribute to enjoyment and protection of dark skies for future generations.

“We are proud of this accomplishment,” says Dinosaur National Monument Superintendent Paul Scolari, “and we’re committed to continuing to work with surrounding communities to uphold the high standard set by the IDA in order to protect the magnificence of the night sky in our region

moving forward.”

Dinosaur National Monument spans nearly 211,000 acres across high desert peaks and river canyons in northeast Utah and northwest Colorado. Dinosaur becomes the fifth internationally recognized Dark Sky Place in Colorado, the twelfth in Utah, and the second in Uintah County. Its location near US Highway 40, between Salt Lake City and Denver, puts it within an easy day’s drive of millions of people who can no longer see the Milky Way from their backyards because of increased light pollution.

“Visitors from around the world are finding that star-filled skies at Dinosaur are often as novel and awe-inspiring as fossil-filled

rocks,” says Park Ranger Sonya Popelka. “Residents of rural areas and avid campers may have more experience with natural cycles of the sun, moon, and stars. Urban residents may find a stargazing program or guided night hike in a park setting to be their first experience with true darkness. Our goal is to invite everyone to learn about and enjoy the benefits of nights without too much artificial light. And, with a few simple tips for adopting night-sky friendly lighting in their own communities, they can bring that starry view home with them.”

IDA’s International Dark Sky Places Program was founded in 2001 to protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.





## Young Advocates Set Their Eyes on Tackling Light Pollution

By guest writer Aries Ramirez Licea, Bioscience High School

In the summer of 2018, an ambitious group of five students from Bioscience High School in Phoenix, Arizona, gathered together with the hope of achieving one goal: to preserve our dark skies. Our group, Helping Achieve a Renewable Planet (H.A.R.P.), embarked on a four-year-long project. Although our interests were different, we came together with the shared realization that light pollution negatively impacted each one of our passions. Aries was influenced by protecting wildlife, Eduardo had an interest in conserving our ecosystems, Michael had a deep-rooted passion for human health, Emil was interested in learning more about economic impacts, and Samuel was driven by his love for astronomy.

H.A.R.P.'s solution is to bring awareness to the problem and demonstrate the impact this challenge has on everyone. If you were to ask someone what light pollution is, chances are they will give the typical, "light

pollution prevents you from seeing stars" response. To an extent, that answer is true. However, light pollution also impacts our biotic and abiotic community and people should be aware of that. Awareness starts conversations, and increases motivation for people to make a difference.

Last year we were able to support Shuala Corr, a middle school librarian in Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada, in her efforts to create a "Star Science" club. The club was developed for students interested in astronomy and who, as she stated, "are committed to tackle the city council with research on what the light pollution is doing to our area and the world." By informing kids at a young age, they will be motivated early on to have a positive impact on their community and work towards solving a problem that will affect them in their future. H.A.R.P.'s research was able to help Ms. Corr, an individual 1,541 miles away from us. Imagine what you

could do for dark skies, and who you could impact, in your own community!

H.A.R.P.'s journey in preserving our dark skies is just beginning and we have a long path ahead of us before we can make an even bigger impact. But, with the help of our community, and other like-minded people, our goal will become achievable. What starts with awareness can turn into a solution. By taking simple measures, such as talking with your neighbor about light pollution, limiting the amount of artificial light being used, or investing in dark sky friendly lighting, you too can work towards preserving our dark skies.

## Grand Canyon Lodges Help Protect Grand Sky Views

Founded in 1919, Grand Canyon National Park is one of the oldest national parks in the country. Considered one of the seven wonders of the world, the 277-mile long, one-mile deep canyon attracts about five million visitors each year. Though known for its dramatic geological features, the park also offers stunning views of the night sky.

In recognition of the park's efforts to protect their natural dark-sky resource, Grand Canyon National Park was awarded provisional International Dark Sky Park status in 2016. Provisional status granted the park an additional three years to get two-thirds of all park lighting into compliance with IDA guidelines. With the help of Grand Canyon National Park Lodges (GCNPL), the concessionaire that operates many of the hotels and restaurants in the park, Grand



Arizona Room, before (left) and after (right) retrofit. Photo: NPS

Canyon National Park is on track to attain full Dark Sky Park status in time for its centennial celebration this year. Working in partnership with the National Park Service, GCNPL is installing dark sky compliant lamps and fixtures in place of many of the park's 5,000 outdoor lights.

The retrofit project is one of the many sustainability initiatives in progress at Grand Canyon National Park Lodges properties. The company is currently constructing a new hotel in compliance with LEED gold standards, which includes efficient cooling and heating systems, reclaimed water for toilets, and dark-sky approved lighting. Additionally, the concessionaire is working on diverting solid waste from its facilities, making conscious choices about food sourcing for its restaurants, and is either composting food waste or feeding it to the 148 mules that

travel with tourists into the canyon.

The effort to attain International Dark Dark Sky Park status is directly tied to the park's centennial celebration, which will include the park's annual Star Party event. The theme of the 100th birthday celebration is "Past and Present," and the park will feature side-by-side pictures from 1919 and 2019 to highlight changes over the park's 100-year history. It is IDA's hope that, with the majority of the park's outdoor lights in compliance, the 2019 photos will look a lot like those from 1919 in at least one respect: the natural darkness of the night sky will be preserved.



El Tovar – North Porch after retrofit. Photo: NPS



IDA Nighthawk Monthly Giving Club

## Join the Nighthawk Monthly Giving Club!

A little each month makes a huge difference. Join the IDA Nighthawk Monthly Giving Club to help us keep the skies dark and the stars shining! Monthly giving through automatic credit card payments is convenient, secure, and a great way to support the important work of IDA. It also means that you will no longer receive our renewal notices, which helps reduce our administrative costs, saves paper, and allows us to put even more of your generous gift to work for the environment.

Learn more at [darksky.org/membership/nighthawk](https://darksky.org/membership/nighthawk)