



**DarkSky**

# Call for volunteer leadership

Join DarkSky's board of directors

"REQUIEM FOR A DREAM" BY AMBRE DE L'AIPE



# Call for volunteer leadership

DarkSky International seeks passionate, thoughtful, and influential volunteer leaders to join our board to advance our mission to restore the nighttime environment and protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation.



*DarkSky board members and Advocates gather at the 2024 IAU conference in South Africa.*

## About DarkSky International

### *Our history, work, and impact*

Founded in 1988, DarkSky International (formerly the International Dark-Sky Association) has grown into the world's leading authority on light pollution and dark sky preservation. For over three decades, we have worked tirelessly to educate communities, advocate for responsible lighting practices, and protect the natural nighttime environment essential to all life on Earth.

Our impact spans the globe through our network of dedicated volunteers, scientific research initiatives, and practical conservation programs. We have certified over 240 International Dark Sky Places across six continents, helped communities save millions of dollars through lighting upgrades that follow our principles for responsible outdoor light at night, and raised awareness about the critical importance of darkness for human health, wildlife, and our connection to the cosmos.

Through partnerships with governments, municipalities, lighting manufacturers, and conservation organizations, we continue to lead the movement toward a future where artificial light is used thoughtfully and responsibly, preserving the wonder of starry skies for generations to come.

DarkSky is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Arizona. Our work is made possible by the generosity of individuals and organizations who believe in our mission and share our vision of a world where natural darkness is valued and protected. We are sustained by a broad-based global membership, the vital support of major donors, and the growing success of our voluntary certification programs. In addition, partnerships and program sponsorships help expand our reach and ensure the long-term impact of our work to preserve the night.

## ***DarkSky International by the numbers***

*(From the 2024 Impact Report)*

- Staff size: 16
- Annual budget: \$3.3 million
- Annual earned income: \$600,000

## ***DarkSky's reach:***

- 233+ International Dark Sky Places in 29 countries
- 105 DarkSky chapters in 32 countries
- 3500 volunteer advocates and delegates in 108 countries
- 200,000+ followers across social media
- 5,000 donors

## ***Our governance***

DarkSky International operates under a governance structure designed to ensure effective leadership, transparency, and accountability. Our organization is guided by a global board of directors composed of leaders from around the world who bring deep expertise in fields including astronomy, lighting design, environmental science, public policy, and nonprofit management. This diversity of perspective strengthens our ability to address light pollution as a global challenge.

Board members serve three-year terms and are expected to actively participate in strategic planning, policy development, and organizational oversight. They also serve as ambassadors for our mission, advocating for our work, building awareness, and helping to cultivate the relationships and resources that sustain and grow our impact.

We maintain strong financial stewardship and regularly evaluate our programs to ensure maximum impact in advancing our mission.



*DarkSky CEO meets board member Paulina Villalobos in Santiago, Chile.*



*DarkSky CEO and board members travels to AlUla, Saudi Arabia, to certify and celebrate a new Dark Sky Place.*



## *Our global committees*

Our work is organized through specialized committees that focus on key areas of our mission:

### *Standing committees*

- **Governance:** Oversees board development, succession planning, policy review, and organizational structure to maintain effective leadership and operational excellence.
- **Finance:** Oversees organizational budget, financial planning, investment strategies, and ensures fiscal responsibility and transparency in all financial operations.

### *Programmatic committees*

- **Lighting Technical Committee:** Develops technical standards, reviews lighting technologies, provides expert guidance on best practices, and creates educational resources for responsible lighting design.
- **Dark Sky Places Committee:** Oversees our International Dark Sky Places program, evaluates applications, conducts site visits, and supports designated locations in maintaining their dark sky status.
- **Awards Committee:** Recognizes outstanding contributions to dark sky preservation through our annual awards program, celebrating individuals and organizations making a significant impact in our field.



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*“Starlight Highway” by Tom Rae, taken in Aoraki / Mount Cook National Park, Canterbury, New Zealand.*



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*Board members and Advocates meet in Oskaloosa, Iowa.*

## About DarkSky International

Our values guide everything we do—shaping our decisions, our partnerships, and the way we work to protect the night. They reflect who we are as an organization and what we strive to embody as a global movement:

**Passionate.** We are enthusiastic advocates for restoring and protecting the natural nighttime environment essential to all living things.

**Inclusive.** We believe the natural nighttime environment is a basic human right – for every person for all time – celebrated in diverse communities' cultures and heritage. Light justice requires responsible lighting and access to a night free of light pollution for everyone.

**Collaborative.** We build enduring relationships with those committed to reducing light pollution and restoring and protecting the natural nighttime environment. We seek common ground towards that goal with all stakeholders, including government, and industry.

**Informed.** We base our actions on the best available scientific evidence and support further research on the causes, measurements, and solutions for light pollution.

**Inspired.** Our spirit is enriched by the wonders of the natural night—from the star-studded sky to the flash of a firefly.

**Global.** Our strength lies in being a global movement working locally to achieve our worldwide mission under One DarkSky.

## What we are looking for

We seek board members who share a passion for our mission and bring a blend of professional expertise, leadership experience, and a desire to contribute meaningfully to our strategic direction. We recognize that no single candidate will embody every quality listed—and that's okay. Ideal board members offer diverse perspectives, strong communication skills, and a commitment to collaborative governance.



### *You...*

- Have demonstrated leadership experience in your professional or volunteer work
- Possess expertise in areas relevant to our mission, such as astronomy, environmental science, lighting design, public policy, public relations, nonprofit management, or related fields
- Bring a global perspective and understanding of diverse cultural contexts
- Show strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate commitment to collaborative decision-making and consensus-building
- Have experience with board governance, strategic planning, or organizational development
- Possess the ability to think strategically about complex, long-term challenges
- Show cultural competency and sensitivity to diverse viewpoints and approaches

### *You are excited about...*

- Working with a passionate global community to tackle one of our time's most overlooked environmental challenges.
- Making a tangible difference in protecting natural darkness, reducing energy waste, and reconnecting people with the wonder of starry skies.
- Contributing your unique skills and perspective to an organization, making a real impact through science-based advocacy and practical conservation work.

### *You don't have to...*

- Be a professional astronomer or lighting expert to contribute meaningfully to our board. While technical expertise is valuable, we also need leaders with skills in governance, finance, communications, community organizing, policy development, and other areas.
- Have prior experience with our organization. We welcome fresh perspectives and new voices to help us grow and evolve.



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*"Milky Way Over Quiver Tree" By Jilanfeng Dai in Southern Africa.*

# What we are looking for

As a DarkSky International board member, you will be expected to support the organization across four primary areas:

## *Governance and Strategic Leadership*

- Dedicate approximately 4–8 hours per month to board responsibilities
- Attend monthly board meetings (conducted virtually) with preparation time
- Actively participate in organizational planning, policy development, and major decision-making processes
- Exercise proper oversight of organizational finances, approve budgets, and ensure responsible stewardship of resources

## *Active Committee Participation*

- Participate actively in at least one standing committee
- Contribute your expertise and time to advance specific aspects of our work
- Stay informed about developments in our field and participate in board education opportunities
- Contribute to our collective knowledge and organizational effectiveness

## *Mission Advocacy and Representation*

- Serve as an ambassador for our mission in your professional and personal networks
- Help amplify our message and build awareness about light pollution issues

## *Organizational Support and Development*

- Contribute to donor cultivation and stewardship efforts to help build meaningful relationships that sustain and grow our work.
- Make DarkSky one of your top charitable priorities.
- Help identify, recruit, and nurture new supporters, including donors, partners, and board prospects who can contribute time, talent, or resources to expand our impact.

# Apply

We welcome applications from qualified candidates worldwide who are passionate about our mission and ready to contribute to our board's leadership.

DarkSky accepts applications year-round to build a network of prospective qualified board members. The governance committee meets approximately every two months to review submitted applications.

## *To apply*

Please fill out the [DarkSky Board Member Application](#) and submit your CV and statement of interest. Please highlight your experience in a way that aligns with the description of what is expected of a board member in your responses.

## *For more information*

More information on DarkSky International can be found at [DarkSky.org](https://DarkSky.org).  
Join us in protecting the night for current and future generations. The stars are waiting.



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