

# Nightscape



DarkSky

#121 | September 2025

## COVER STORY

# Capturing the Dark

Winners of our 2025  
photo contest

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6 new International  
Dark Sky Places

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# DarkSky

We restore the nighttime environment and protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation.

#### HEADQUARTERS

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#### WEB

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#### INSTAGRAM

[darksky\\_intl](https://www.instagram.com/darksky_intl)

#### FACEBOOK

[DarkSky.Intl](https://www.facebook.com/DarkSky.Intl)

#### YOUTUBE

[DarkSkyInternational](https://www.youtube.com/DarkSkyInternational)

#### BLUESKY

[DarkSky\\_Intl](https://bsky.app/profile/DarkSky_Intl)

#### LINKEDIN

[darksky-international](https://www.linkedin.com/company/darksky-international)

## On the cover

**“The Watchers” by JJ Rao**, Derby, Australia

Rare red sprites dancing over the tidal flats of Western Australia. A large sprite like this exists for 10 milliseconds, up to 40x faster than an eye blink. This makes photographing them challenging and requires very dark skies. The central sprite is unusual. It’s known as a ‘jellyfish’ sprite, the largest and fastest of all sprites.

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Stacked | Sony a7IV | Lens: Sigma 35mm f1.4 Art | Aperture: f/1.4 | Shutter speed: 3.2s | ISO: 4000

#### CATEGORY

**Capture the Dark** — Images showcasing the splendor of dark skies and pristine nights, from outdoor adventures to breathtaking nightscapes and vistas, and striking photographs of the Milky Way.

## Nightscape

#121 · September 2025

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#### EDITOR

Megan Eaves

#### DESIGN

Mark Bult

#### COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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Green-e



CleanWatts



## From the Executive Director

As the summer heat soars here in **Tucson, Arizona**, many people escape to cooler climates. Those who stay, including my family, start watching the skies intently for signs of the monsoon. Thunderheads rising over the mountains and fast-moving storms bring much-needed rain and respite from the heat. Astronomers may despair as the dark skies cloud over, but the desert comes alive — especially at night.



Ruskin Hartley

My family recently took a short walk to the end of our road, which runs into the border of **Saguaro National Park**, now an **International Dark Sky Place**. The sun had just set, and night was drawing in. A great horned owl dropped from its perch and flew silently away. Bats flitted overhead, darting after moths. The monsoon clouds hid the stars, but the night was very much alive.

This vivid reminder of nocturnal biodiversity connects to something larger. This year's **Capture the Dark** photo contest showcases not only incredible star-filled panoramas but also inspiring images of the natural world after sunset — the scorpion that glows under UV light, the fireflies that spark wonder and joy, the countless creatures that depend on the rhythm of day and night.

There is a growing realization that natural darkness is as essential to our environment

as clean air, clean water, and green space. At DarkSky, we are committed to protecting these dark sanctuaries, where celestial wonders and nocturnal life can thrive. When we preserve darkness, we preserve not just our connection to the cosmos, but also the intricate web of life that has evolved under natural night skies for millions of years.

Whether watching for monsoon clouds over the **Sonoran Desert** or marveling at the **Milky Way** from your backyard, remember that every dark sky saved is a victory for both astronomy and ecology. The night is alive, and it needs our protection.



For the night,  
**Ruskin Hartley**  
[ruskin@darksky.org](mailto:ruskin@darksky.org)  
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.



# From the Editor



DarkSky's engagement associate Bettymaya Foott taking a portrait of communications consultant Natasha Chortos in Saguaro National Park, U.S.

Megan Eaves

As a words person, I've never had the patience or technical interest to become a skilled photographer. But I'm grateful and in awe that there are photographers who sit outside for hours in often cold and dark conditions, making tiny adjustments to settings and aperture to capture light that has been traveling for hundreds, or even thousands of years.

Through social media, images are able not only to inspire awe but also to drive people to take action. A recent Booking.com report showed 75% of tourists use social media as travel inspiration, while organizations like **NASA** have proven how images of deep space and the cosmos can pull in and inspire audiences.

That's why I'm so delighted that DarkSky's **Capture the Dark** photo contest is back this year after a hiatus in 2024. We received hundreds of entries from photographers in dozens of countries, demonstrating the power of the night to inspire us through the lens.

In this issue of *Nightscape*, we're proud to showcase the winners across all 11

categories, including the cover photo.

This striking image, the winner of the eponymous "Capture the Dark" category, depicts sprite lightning, also known as red sprites — a type of electrical discharge in the upper atmosphere between thunderclouds and the ground. Sprites appear as plumes and tendrils triggered by lightning strikes and are difficult to photograph because they flash so quickly and need very dark skies to be seen — a true showcase of the immense skill of these photographers.

Also inside, you'll find DarkSky's 2024 impact report with a message from the new president of our Board of Directors, **Nalayini Brito-Davies**.

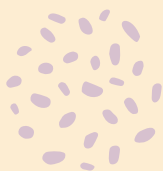
Just as those tiny points of light have traveled centuries to reach us, these images remind us why protecting the night sky matters — so future generations can marvel at the real thing, too.



**Megan Eaves**  
[nightscape@darksky.org](mailto:nightscape@darksky.org)  
London, U.K.



# Advocate highlights



News snippets from our network of DarkSky Advocates around the world



**A Japan**  
**Nobuaki Ochi** and Advocates from **DarkSky Japan** helped stage an exhibit featuring Japan’s International Dark Sky Places, which was on display at the **Expo 2025** in **Osaka** from May 28 to June 1. The joint exhibit was created by the **Council for Cooperation among Certified Dark Sky Places in Japan**, with images and text based on materials produced by the chapter members.

**B Greece**  
**DarkSky Advocate Iliana Zoutou** wrote an article published in the Greek newspaper and website, **Athens Voice**. The article explored the issue of light pollution in Greece from scientific, social, and cultural perspectives, aiming to bring more local awareness to how cities in Greece are lit and the urgent need to protect the natural night. [bit.ly/3J99kAI](https://bit.ly/3J99kAI)

**C Uruguay**  
In July, **Advocate Florencia Reichmann**, an environmental management graduate from **Uruguay**, appeared on the national radio program, “Disrupción, Tecnología e Innovación,” discussing light pollution and the recent addition of a dark sky friendly lighting scheme at a public park in the town of **Santa Lucía del Este** in southern Uruguay. Watch the interview (Spanish language): [bit.ly/44LSZJu](https://bit.ly/44LSZJu)



**D Vietnam**  
**Advocate Trung Nguyen** from **DarkSky Vietnam** gave a talk at the **International Community Astronomy Week** in July, a national astronomy convention held in Vietnam. His talk focused on astrophotography and how advocates can use starry photos to help educate and inspire people to take action in protecting the night.

# DarkSky's Capture the Dark Photo Contest

## 2025 Winners

Photography is a powerful act of witness. It connects those who know the magic of a truly dark sky and invites those who've never seen one to imagine what's been lost. Now in its fifth year, Capture the Dark has proven to be more than just a photo contest — it's a celebration of the night and a powerful call to protect it.

Presented by Visit Utah and Visit Tucson, Capture the Dark 2025 received more than 2,200 submissions from photographers worldwide. The images were judged by an international panel of talented astrophotographers and dark sky advocates.

We are pleased to feature the winning photographs from the contest's 11 categories:

- ◆ Dark Sky Friendly Lighting and Design
- ◆ International Dark Sky Places
- ◆ The Impact of Light Pollution
- ◆ Capture the Dark
- ◆ Creatures of the Night (flora & fauna)
- ◆ Deep Sky Observations
- ◆ Mobile Nighttime Photography
- ◆ Young Astrophotographers
- ◆ People's Choice Award
- ◆ Visit Utah Award
- ◆ Visit Tucson Award





↓ **“Paris, Asleep In The Pre-Dawn Hours”**  
by **Gwenael Blanck**, Île-de-France, France

“Paris is known as the ‘City of Lights,’ but after midnight, many iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and Sacré-Cœur are turned off to save energy and reduce light pollution. I took advantage of the darker, less light-polluted sky to capture the Pleiades above the city, from a beautiful viewpoint in Sèvres, just 8km from the Eiffel Tower.”

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Single exposure | Nikon Z6 | Lens: Nikkor Z 180–600mm f/5.6–6.3 VR | Aperture: f/6.3 | Shutter speed: 1s | ISO: 1600

**CATEGORY**

**Dark Sky Friendly Lighting and Design**

— Places and infrastructure that embrace responsible outdoor lighting practices, such as residential areas, commercial spaces, lodging, sports fields, and more.





→ “A Gateway to the Universe” by Sadeq Hayati, Raufarhöfn, Iceland

“On my last trip to Iceland, we followed the northern lights. There was a huge storm of aurora and I decided to record it with my phone for the first time! It was interesting that, with a small device in my hand, I could see the beauty happening in the sky in more detail and beauty!”

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Single exposure | Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra 1x Lens | Aperture: f/1.7 | Shutter speed: 8s | ISO: 3200

CATEGORY

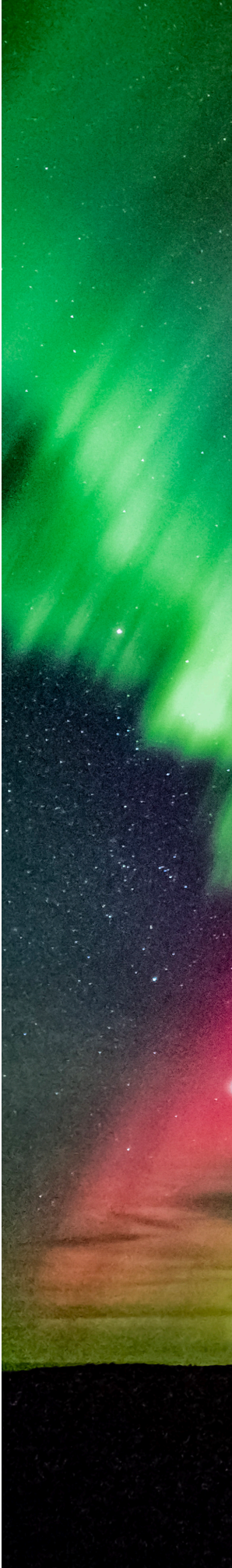
**Mobile Nighttime Photography** — Celebrating images taken with mobile devices (cell phones and GoPros), and proving that some of the best moments happen when we are simply paying attention.

**All of the winning photographs adhere to DarkSky’s Principles for Responsible Astrophotography:**

- Use light responsibly
- Promote honest representation with editing and labeling
- Respect dark sky locations and abide by laws
- Travel mindfully to minimize impact
- Manage expectations about what our eyes can see
- Share your passion and inspire others to protect the night



Scan the QR code to find out more about the principles.















← **“Scorpion and Scorpio” by Oscar Leonardo Chavez Torres**, Hermosillo, Sonora, México

“Scorpions use the darkness to hunt in the desert. These organisms thrive in the dark nights of the desert, and even the Moon can be enough light to drop their activity.”

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Single exposure | Lens: Nikon 24-70 2.8 Z | Aperture: 2.8 | Shutter speed: 15s | ISO: 5000

#### CATEGORY

##### **Creatures of the Night (flora & fauna)** —

Celebrates the rich biodiversity of nocturnal life and the importance of nocturnal habitats, from glowing fireflies to flowers that bloom by moonlight.

↑ **“Breathing Vela Supernova Remnant Mosaic” by Alpha Zhang**, Ovalle, Chile

“This is the most breathtaking nebula I’ve ever captured. The Vela Supernova Remnant is a target that no astrophotographer should miss in a lifetime. A four-panel mosaic covers the primary emission signals of the nebula. The OIII outer shell wraps around the ionized Ha and SII, forming a complex, layered structure that is beyond words.”

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Stacked | Moravian G4-16000 Mark I | Lens: Takahashi FSQ-106ED | Filter: Astrodon LRGB Ha SII OIII | Telescope: Takahashi FSQ-106ED | Mount: Planewave L500 | Frame: 1310 | Exposure: 109hr | Software: Voyager/Pixinsight

#### CATEGORY

##### **Deep Sky Observations** —

Images that illustrate the vastness of the universe and the ongoing mission of scientific discovery — distant nebulae, colorful planets, and swirling galaxies.







← “Kids and Comets” by Carly Stocks, Tooele County, Utah, U.S.

“Chasing Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) with these two is one of my favorite memories of 2024. While it makes photography tricky, I love sharing moments under the stars with my children. They patiently waited for me to capture this comet for three consecutive nights. They asked questions, watched the comet through binoculars, and even posed for pictures.”

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Single exposure | Canon 80D | Lens: Tamron SP 15-30mm F2.8 Di VC USD | Aperture: f/3.2 | Shutter speed: 1.3s | ISO: 1250

**CATEGORY**

**Visit Utah Award** — With generous support from Visit Utah, all photos taken in Utah were eligible for the Utah Location Award, which honors images that capture the spirit and beauty of Utah’s night.



← “The Watchers” by JJ Rao

**CATEGORY**

**Capture the Dark** — On the cover.

See page 2 for details.





→ **“Requiem for a Dream” by Ambre de l’AlPe,**  
Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Haute-Savoie, France

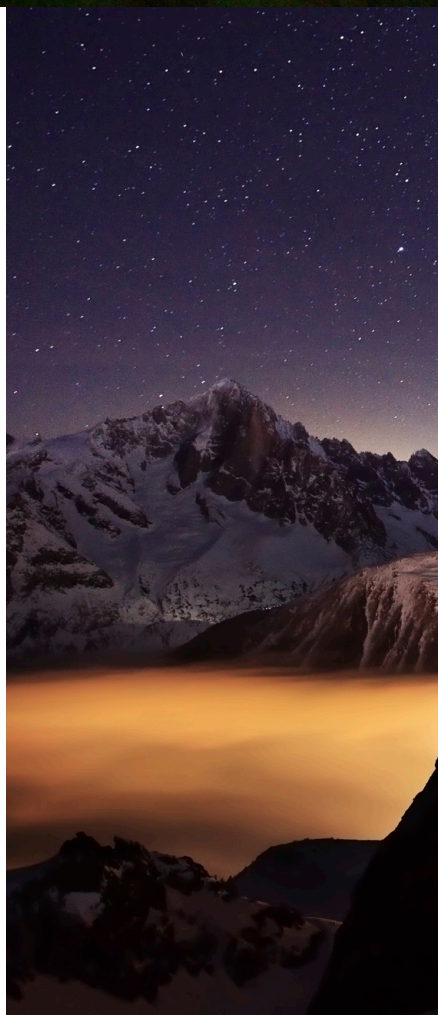
“The tent is pitched in the snow, and a sea of clouds filters the light from the town of Chamonix. An incredible atmosphere...and it’s even more incredible to realize that the town, despite the clouds obscuring the light, shines right up to the summit of Mont-Blanc (on the far right of the photo)!”

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Single exposure | Canon EOS 5D Mark II | Lens: Canon 17-40 mm f/4 | Aperture: f/4 | Shutter speed: 30s | ISO: 1250

#### CATEGORY

**The Impact of Light Pollution** — Photos illustrating how artificial light negatively impacts nocturnal habitats, neighborhoods, communities, and our ability to see the stars.







← “Tumacacori’s secret” by Celeste Boudreaux,  
Tumacacori, Arizona, U.S.

“Every summer, Tumacacori hosts a small visitor that most don’t even know exists in Arizona: the southwest synchronous firefly! And every year, they welcome visitors to photograph them.”

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Single exposure | Canon 5D Mark III | Lens: Rokinon 24mm | Aperture: f/2.8 | Shutter speed: 20s | ISO: 3200

#### CATEGORY

**Visit Tucson Award** — Made possible by Visit Tucson, all photos taken in and around Tucson, Arizona, were eligible for this location award, which honors the region’s deep connection to the night.







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

“The Starlight Highway sign is definitely one of the cooler signs to find on the road, and there is a good reason for it, as you can see! The sign marks the entrance to the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve — one of the most significant dark sky reserves on Earth.”

#### TECHNICAL DETAILS

Tracked panorama | Nikon Z6a | Lens: Sigma 28mm f/1.4 Art | Aperture: f/2.5 sky; f/8 foreground | Shutter speed: 30s sky; 10s foreground | ISO: 3200 sky; 800 foreground

#### CATEGORY

**International Dark Sky Places** — Photos taken in one of DarkSky’s 249 certified locations around the world, showcasing places committed to protecting the night.









↑ **“Gems of Jizerka” by Oldřich Špůrek**,  
Jizerka, Liberecký kraj, Czech Republic

“In May, I visited Jizerka, which is located in a dark Bortle 4 zone (and sometimes even reaching Bortle 3). This valley transforms completely after sunset. A few scattered huts, fleeting fog, and a lively yet peaceful atmosphere under the stars made this night unforgettable.”

**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Panorama | Canon 6D mod | Lens: Sigma 35mm f/1.4 | Aperture: f/2.2 | Shutter speed: 49x20s | ISO: 5000

**CATEGORY**

**Young Astrophotographers** — Images taken by photographers aged 17 and under, which capture their vision of the night.

→ **“Milky Way with Comet C/2023 A3” by Siddharth Patel**, Fingal, Ontario, Canada

“I took this photo using my mother’s Samsung S21. I had to leave the city because I couldn’t see the comet at all, so I convinced my family to drive out with me. Under the darker Fingal sky, the comet and the Milky Way were both visible to the naked eye, and seeing them together blew my mind.”

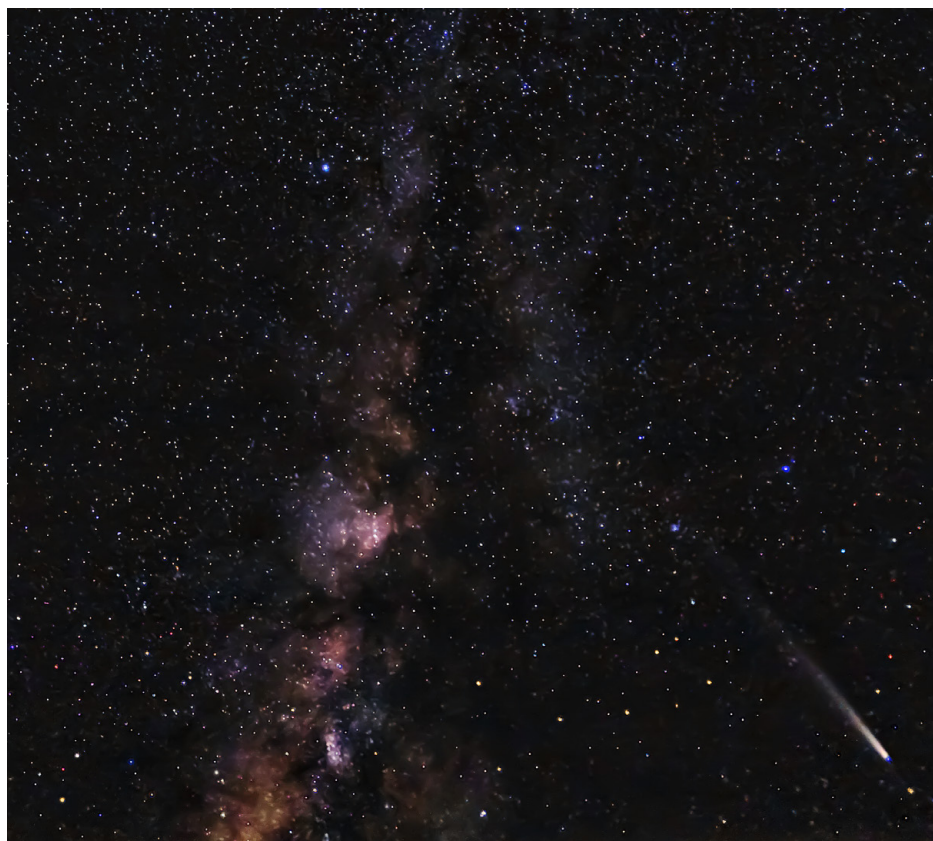
**TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Stacked | Samsung S21 | Aperture: f/1.5 | Shutter speed: 30s | ISO: 800

**CATEGORY**

**People’s Choice Award** — A special recognition for the image that received the highest number of public votes, celebrating photography that resonates most with viewers around the world.









# 2024 Impact Report

### President's message

The Milky Way is no longer visible to a third of humanity, yet many thousands of generations before us saw the Milky Way every night. Light pollution, which adversely impacts our natural night skies, became an issue only around 130 years ago with the widespread adoption of electric lighting, but has continued to grow ever since.

In 1988, two concerned astronomers — David Crawford and Tim Hunter — recognized the detrimental effects of light pollution and founded DarkSky International to conserve our night skies. In doing so, they coined the term “dark sky.” Thanks to their foresight, the impacts of terrestrial light pollution on biodiversity and human health are now better understood, and efforts have gathered pace to control it. However, space-based light pollution from satellites and marine light pollution in the ocean have both emerged as new threats.

Thirty-seven years after its founding, and supported by Chapters in 32 countries and Advocates from 135 countries on six continents, DarkSky International stands at the forefront of a now globally understood and embraced “dark sky movement.” Working together, we continue to find innovative and effective ways of combating light pollution and

preserving our night skies and nocturnal ecosystems. Our award-winning, 24-year-old International Dark Sky Places program has certified nearly 250 places in 39 countries and territories on six continents, protecting the natural night and showcasing the benefits of dark skies. Through growing public awareness of dark skies and interest in stargazing, astrotourism is emerging as a global travel trend, leading to associated economic development and benefits in areas with dark skies. And importantly, the increased awareness of dark skies that we have generated has put focus on the preservation of Indigenous astronomy, for which the existence of dark skies is critical.

As we continue our leadership of the now global dark sky movement, making effective inroads into reducing light pollution across the planet, I would like to thank our Members, Advocates, and Donors for supporting DarkSky International, and I would like to encourage those who are not currently involved to join us. Together, we can succeed in our mission to save the world's night skies.



**Nalayini Brito-Davies**  
President, DarkSky  
International  
New Zealand

# 1. Reaching a Global Constituency

## Reach

243,848\*  
supporters and members from  
135  
countries and territories  
around the world.

\* Includes supporters, members, advocates, event attendees, and social media. Does not include media reach.



## Engagement

- ✦ During International Dark Sky Week 2024, DarkSky and its Chapters, Delegates, and Advocates reached millions through the media, demonstrating a growing global awareness of the impact of light pollution.
- ✦ Advocates and Delegates worldwide were granted 117 proclamations from local governments and communities for International Dark Sky Week, out of more than 200 applications submitted in 2024.
- ✦ November’s Under One Sky 2024 global conference welcomed 950 participants from 53 countries during our annual 24-hour, virtual event.
- ✦ The DarkSky Approved Luminaires program grew to include 35 new lighting companies in 2024, for a total of 212 registered companies and 1,350 product families.

## Conservation

Numbers as of December 31, 2024

176,000+  
sq km of protected lands and  
night skies in 39 countries and  
territories on 6 continents

233  
total International Dark Sky Place  
designations.

28  
new International Dark Sky Places  
approved in 2024:

1. AlUla Manara & AlGhameel Nature Reserve, Saudi Arabia
2. Bisbee, U.S.
3. Tubac, U.S.
4. Gantrisch Dark Sky Zone, Switzerland
5. Paonia, U.S.
6. Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, U.S.
7. Browns Canyon National Monument, U.S.
8. Øvre Pasvik National Park, Norway
9. Bruneau Dunes State Park, U.S.
10. Isle of Rum, U.K.
11. Kaikōura, New Zealand
12. Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area, U.S.
13. Thousand Hills State Park, U.S.
14. Palm Beach Headland, Australia
15. Tāhuna Glenorchy, New Zealand
16. Kawarau Gibbston, New Zealand
17. Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, U.S.
18. Cottonwood Canyon State Park, U.S.
19. Lake County, Oregon Outback, U.S.
20. Sisters, U.S.
21. Antelope, U.S.
22. Oxford Forest Conservation Area, New Zealand
23. Eiweiler Star Village, Germany
24. Carrickalinga, Australia
25. Shield Ranch Barton Creek, U.S.
26. Moab, U.S.
27. Mandø, Denmark
28. Gower National Landscape, U.K.



## 2. Empowering Chapters and Advocates

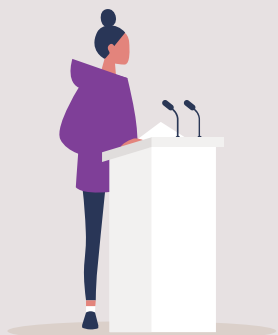


- ◆ DarkSky Chapters and Delegates worldwide led engagement efforts that generated millions of earned media impressions, events, and

campaigns with new partnerships, translated resources, and region-specific advocacy tools tailored to local communities.

- ◆ DarkSky welcomed some 840 new advocates in 2024, with Advocate representatives from 111 countries and territories on six continents. In 2024, our efforts expanded to Mongolia, the UAE, Paraguay, and the U.S. states of Vermont and Iowa, along with renewed or reinvigorated activities in multiple existing regions.
- ◆ Chapters and Advocates reported a notable rise in policy-focused and astrotourism-centered dialogue with local decision-makers – clear indicators of DarkSky’s global leadership and influence at the community level.

## 3. Advancing Policy and Science

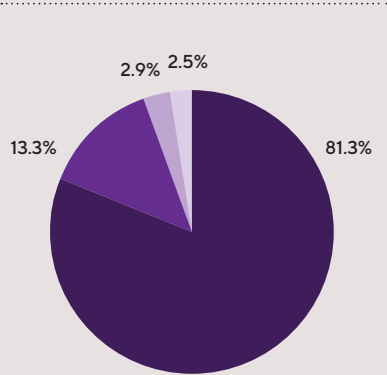


- ◆ DarkSky Codes and Statutes Templates were released to assist communities and professionals with establishing effective laws to reduce light pollution.
- ◆ DarkSky endorsed the Dark and Quiet Skies Act of 2024, a proposed U.S. bill that aims to establish a Center of Excellence to research and develop solutions for minimizing satellites’ impact on the night sky and astronomical observations.

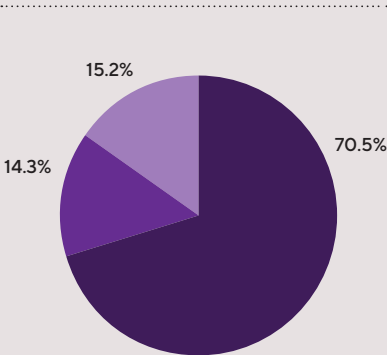
- ◆ A successful campaign supported the European Light Pollution Manifesto to integrate light pollution mitigation into European environmental policies, safeguarding biodiversity, human health, and energy efficiency across the continent.
- ◆ The continuous advancements highlighted in the State of the Science report, alongside a record 527 new references added to the database in 2024 (bringing the total to over 5,000), underscore a growing global interest in light pollution and provide critical scientific backing that informs and supports robust policy development.
- ◆ The lighting community’s growing interest in light pollution and quality lighting was demonstrated by the memorandum of understanding signed between DarkSky and the LUCI Association at LUCI’s annual conference, where DarkSky delivered the keynote.

## 4. Statement of Financial Activity

This information is based on Reviewed Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2024. For more detailed financial information, please visit [darksky.org/about/funding](https://darksky.org/about/funding)



REVENUE	
Donations	\$ 2,400,868
Program Revenue	\$ 392,039
In-Kind Services	\$ n/a
Investment Income	\$ 85,874
Other	\$ 73,260
Total Revenue	\$ 2,952,041



EXPENSE	
Program Services	\$ 1,768,158
General Administrative	\$ 358,625
Fundraising	\$ 381,429
Total Expense	\$ 2,508,212

### DarkSky Board of Directors

- Nalayini Brito-Davies, President, New Zealand
- Connie Walker, Vice-President, U.S.
- Brad Schlesselman, Treasurer, U.S.
- Samyukta Manikumar, Secretary, Kenya
- Tom Reinert, U.S., Immediate Past President
- Fernando Avila Castro, México
- Doug Barker, U.S.
- Kevin Gaston Ph.D., U.K.
- Sergio Montúfar Codoñer, Guatemala
- Sibylle Schroer, Germany
- Mike Simmons, U.S.
- Paulina Villalobos, Chile
- Ken Walczak, U.S.

### Non-voting members

- Charles Mudd, General Counsel, U.S.
- Ruskin Hartley, CEO and Executive Director, U.S.

### Committee Chairs

- Nancy Clanton, U.S. and Terry McGowan, U.S. – Technical Committee
- Duncan Wise, U.K. – Dark Sky Places Committee
- Dajana Bjelajac, Serbia – Awards Committee

### Special thanks

DarkSky’s Corporate Partners are dedicated members of the dark sky protection community from the corporate and business sectors. These companies made philanthropic contributions from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 supporting programs, outreach, education, and nocturnal conservation.

- Musco
- Lowe’s
- Home Depot
- Rémy Martin
- Forms + Surfaces
- Bloom Growth
- Under Canvas
- Landscape Forms
- Barker & Scott Consulting
- Xanterra
- Your True Nature
- Selux
- Nomad Cosmetics
- Night Sky Coffee Roasters
- CR Crossroads LED
- Zoo New England
- Earth Sun Moon Trading
- 1% for the Planet



# Newly certified International Dark Sky Places & Sports Lighting

Announced since May 1, 2025



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM



The International Dark Sky Places program certifies communities, parks, and protected areas around the world that preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

## BY THE NUMBERS

249

International Dark Sky Places around the world

39

Countries and territories represented


6

Continents represented

196,460+

Square kilometers of protected land and night sky

Find a Place near you: [DarkSky.org/places](https://DarkSky.org/places)





## URBAN NIGHT SKY PLACE

## Jackson Hole Airport

Wyoming, U.S.

2.02 km<sup>2</sup>

Commercial airport that upgraded hundreds of lights to dark sky friendly luminaires, and has committed to raising awareness about light pollution.



## DARK SKY PARK

## Anholt

Denmark

22.37 km<sup>2</sup>

Small island in the Kattegat Strait between Denmark and Sweden, with rare flora and local communities committed to dark sky preservation.



## DARK SKY RESERVE

## Morvan Regional Park

France

1,297 km<sup>2</sup>

Mountainous region in the center of Burgundy with forests and meadows, encompassing 50 municipalities and several natural protected areas.



## DARK SKY COMMUNITY

## Bluff

Utah, U.S.

95.9 km<sup>2</sup>

A small town in southeastern Utah along the San Juan River, home to numerous Indigenous communities and Ancestral Puebloan sites.



## DARK SKY PARK

## Bavarian Forest National Park

Germany

940 km<sup>2</sup>

Forested mountain park on the German-Czech border with glacial lakes, lynx habitat, and 20 municipalities coordinating dark sky protection efforts.



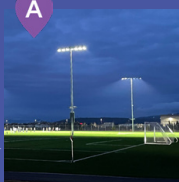
## DARK SKY COMMUNITY

## Liberty Hill

Texas, U.S.

12 km<sup>2</sup>

Small town in the Texas Hill Country, known for its historic architecture and vibrant culture, annual star parties, and a "Night Sky Friendly Business" program.



## DARKSKY APPROVED SPORTS LIGHTING

## HUB Sports Center

Washington, U.S.



## DARKSKY APPROVED SPORTS LIGHTING

## Centennial Park Pickleball Complex

Champaign, Illinois, U.S.



# News & notables

News from the global movement promoting responsible outdoor light at night

## Kevin Bacon's NGO supports DarkSky with advertising campaign

DarkSky International has been selected as one of six nonprofits to receive a custom advertising campaign through

**Purpose, Produced,**  
a new  
initiative  
by actor

**Kevin Bacon's SixDegrees.org** and **Advertising Week**. Partnered with agency **Bray & Co**, DarkSky will spotlight light pollution's global impact through compelling storytelling, launching at Advertising Week New York in October.



## New streetlights in Pittsburgh

The city of **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, has begun replacing more than 35,000 of its streetlights with **energy-efficient, 2700 K LEDs** designed with dark sky principles. By focusing on public safety, energy savings, and the reduction of light pollution, Pittsburgh is proving that well-designed lighting benefits both people and the planet.



## New Principles for Responsible Astrophotography

DarkSky has released new **guidelines for ethical nighttime photography**, urging photographers to minimize light pollution, represent the sky honestly, and respect dark locations. As interest in photographing the night grows, these principles promote stewardship, transparency, and sustainability, ensuring astrophotography protects, rather than harms, the fragile beauty of the night.

[bit.ly/41IAaMo](https://bit.ly/41IAaMo)



## Moths discovered using starlight to migrate long distances

Scientists have discovered that Australia's **Bogong moths** navigate their 1,000-kilometer migration using the stars. While some invertebrates, like dung beetles, use the Milky Way for short-range orientation, this is the first time an insect has been proven to use starlight to maintain migratory direction across long distances. Read the study:

[bit.ly/45nurqy](https://bit.ly/45nurqy)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## State of the Science 2025 report published

In June, DarkSky published its **2025 report on artificial light at night**, reviewing the latest global research on light pollution's impacts on ecological, health, cultural, and technical aspects. This annual roundup is a vital tool for advocates with easy-to-understand summaries of peer-reviewed studies and emerging themes. Download it here:

[darksky.org/state-of-the-science-2025](https://darksky.org/state-of-the-science-2025)



## Show your support for the night

Give yourself or a loved one the gift of the night by purchasing our selection of customized mugs, apparel, and totes.

[bonfire.com/store/darksky](https://bonfire.com/store/darksky)

## Little-known U.S. light pollution agency under threat

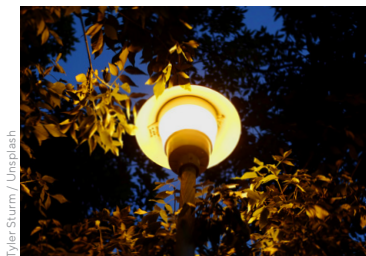
The **U.S. Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division**, which has protected darkness and quiet since 2000 could be among the conservation and science programs at risk under budget cuts proposed by the current presidential administration. A small but crucial office, the division has helped reduce light pollution at places like **Grand Canyon National Park**. Its elimination would undermine wildlife protection, dark sky tourism, and visitor experiences.

## Donate to support Capture the Dark

An image is worth a thousand words — your gift is worth a thousand stars. By donating to DarkSky International, you help amplify the impact of our photo contest and our mission to protect the night. Together, we can keep the stars shining bright.



[darksky.org/ways-to-give](https://darksky.org/ways-to-give)



## Light at night impacts plant growing length

Critical new research published in **Nature** has shown that **artificial light at night (ALAN)** significantly impacts **plant growing length in urban areas**, often with a larger effect than temperature. It reveals that ALAN-driven earlier leaf-out and later leaf deterioration increase the risk of frost damage, disrupting vital plant-pollinator interactions, and can lead to earlier pollen allergy symptoms. Read the paper:

[bit.ly/40SUKxa](https://bit.ly/40SUKxa)

## 2025 ALAN Conference in Ireland

There's still time to register for the 9th annual **Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) Conference**, which will be held from October 28–31 in **Westport, Ireland**. Held every two years, it is the largest scientific conference on light pollution. Speakers will include researchers and experts, and several **DarkSky staff members** and **Advocates** will attend, including our CEO, **Ruskin Hartley**. More info:

[artificiallightatnight.org](https://artificiallightatnight.org)





# UNDER ONE SKY

*Together for the night: Sharing stories, science, and strategies to reduce light pollution in communities worldwide.*

**Nov 7-8, 2025**

DarkSky's global conference unites a growing global community for a unique 24-hour virtual event. Join us for inspiring talks, engaging workshops, and meaningful connections as we work together to protect the night and keep the stars shining bright.



Learn more & explore  
conference resources.



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