



International  
**Dark Sky Week**  
2026

# International **Dark Sky Week**

**April 13-20, 2026**

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International Dark Sky Week is a global celebration of the wonder and importance of the night—and a time to take action to preserve natural darkness and our star-filled skies.

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



**DarkSky**

# GO DARK

## International Dark Sky Week

April 13-20, 2026

### What is International Dark Sky Week?

International Dark Sky Week is a global celebration of the night. From the darkness that supports critical wildlife ecosystems to the star-filled skies we enjoy, the night is filled with wonder and importance.

### This year's theme: GO DARK

This year's theme invites people to discover the night by making an active choice: to "go dark" and experience natural darkness firsthand. Whether it's sitting quietly in a campground, walking a trail by moonlight, or turning off porch lights at home to see the stars just a little better, small actions can create meaningful moments and deepen our understanding of the night's importance.

### Protect the night with quality light

While bad lighting is driving the growth of light pollution, the solution is simpler and more impactful than many realize. Quality lighting and thoughtful design can protect the night while meeting human needs.

Through events, activities, and programs centered on the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting at Night, this week of learning and exploration builds a vision of a world where the human-built environment and dark nights coexist for the benefit of people and the planet.

## Take Action

1. International Dark Sky Week proclamations
2. Globe at Night: Help track the global growth of light pollution
3. DarkSky's Home Outdoor Lighting Assessment
4. Host or participate in an International Dark Sky Week event

# DarkSky Proclamations

**Requesting a proclamation for International Dark Sky Week is a great way to spark conversations in your community about the importance of protecting the night. Proclamations offer a unique opportunity to raise awareness, engage leaders, inspire community participation and help lay the foundation for policy.**

## HOW TO REQUEST A PROCLAMATION

1. Write a letter to (or email) your city Mayor.
2. Use [this template](#) and customize to draft a professional, personalized request.
3. Contact DarkSky Missouri if you have questions or concerns.
4. Submit a formal request using online forms and/or email.
5. Processing times can vary from town-to-town, so submit request at least a month in advance.



Instructions on how to Request a Proclamation with template email to Mayor



Proclamation Template for Missouri

## Globe at Night: Help track the global growth of light pollution



Globe at Night is a global citizen science campaign that empowers people everywhere to track the spread of light pollution. By stepping outside at night you can contribute valuable data that raises awareness and supports efforts to protect the night. It's fun to do with kids, and no special equipment is required.

And it is relatively easy to do so. All you need is a clear view of the sky away from trees and overhanging streetlights (lights farther away are okay, but not overhead). Globe at Night has a set of "Campaign Dates": evenings when the Moon is not a factor. Star Maps and instructions on how to make your measurements and how to report them can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

A Zoom recording explaining Globe at Night and how to record and report your measurements can be found [here](#). Please contact Dr. Vayujeet Gokhale ([gokhale@truman.edu](mailto:gokhale@truman.edu)) for additional information.

Scientist Connie Walker, who helped create Globe At Night two decades ago, explains how to participate on the Midwest and Great Plains environmental podcast [Up From Dust](#).



# Home Outdoor Lighting Assessment

No matter where you live, protecting the night can start right at your front door. This simple activity helps you reduce light pollution around your home or apartment to support a healthy, thriving nighttime environment. Survey your lighting, get recommendations, and make your home dark sky friendly during this week of action.



Click or scan for additional information!

Do you know if your home lighting is night sky friendly?

DarkSky’s Home Lighting Assessment helps you identify ways to improve your outdoor lights. Usually, a few simple changes are all you need to make your lighting beautiful and effective even as you decrease your contribution to sky glow, light trespass and direct glare!

Here are FOUR simple steps to obtain your Darksky Friendly Home Certification:

1. Use [this form](#) to evaluate each outdoor light on your property
2. Improve any of your fixtures that do not comply with all FIVE boxes on the home inventory.
3. Confirm that your luminaires are dark sky friendly by recording the date at which you took the necessary action.
4. Finally, submit your results on this [self-verification form](#).

That’s it! You now have a dark sky friendly home!

You can use this home assessment to initiate discussions about responsible lighting with your co-workers, friends, neighbors and community members.

## Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting




Responsible outdoor lighting is	<b>1 Useful</b>	<p><b>Use light only if it is needed</b></p> <p>All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.</p>	
	<b>2 Targeted</b>	<p><b>Direct light so it falls only where it is needed</b></p> <p>Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.</p>	
	<b>3 Low Level</b>	<p><b>Light should be no brighter than necessary</b></p> <p>Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.</p>	
	<b>4 Controlled</b>	<p><b>Use light only when it is needed</b></p> <p>Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.</p>	
	<b>5 Warm-colored</b>	<p><b>Use warmer color lights where possible</b></p> <p>Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.</p>	

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#### DARKSKY FUN FACT

Did you know that moths pollinate a wide range of plants, many of which are specifically adapted to be pollinated at night? These plants often have white or pale-colored flowers that are more visible after dark, and they usually emit strong, sweet scents to attract their nocturnal visitors.



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# DarkSky Word Search



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MISSOURI

E X V S M O N A R C H M O M O J D X L N  
 L I T T O S T A R S K D I R O T J Z L Y  
 T B F A F D U V K E O S R G X T S B T Q  
 E E E B H B P Y G W S G F A R U H F C R  
 E T C Y U K T G J N Z R M A Y A O S D S  
 B I I I B C L G G F I I J D V M T O Q J  
 G M R J L A T T O D U D J O Y W G I D P  
 N E C Q R W N I V Z A A L S O M F L O I  
 U R A E S R M L Y I P D W E L R J A Y N  
 D S D A U E L I L D B C P S I U X A K C  
 K B I F P W G S T M T J L B F H W C W F  
 M U A M L T E N M L B W B N T Y S F F B  
 F X N G R V T D R X O A G P K W G D B B  
 V Y Y I M G X X Q F R G G L W Q U Z F T  
 S I A H P Z Y H D P H D I W R R G H K B  
 D N I X O G O P Y P K M L K P X H W X M  
 S S A P S E R T C E Q X E Z C M X N T H  
 N H N J E C P L T V T N A J U Z D T Q M  
 I N W V M L Y V F U X U H X R W Z T Y R  
 R Z Y L A X B I I J P I L W X F T Z Z F

Bats

Glare

Monarch

Shielding

Timers

Circadian

Migration

Moths

Sky

Trespass

DungBeetle

MilkyWay

Owls

Stars

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