

Proclamation for INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

Use this information to fill out forms or to help develop your own proclamation submission.

Please include:

- International Dark Sky Week
- April 13 - 20, 2026
- Pennsylvania
- DarkSkyPA, the Pennsylvania State Chapter of DarkSky International, works to restore the natural nighttime environment and protect communities from the effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, conservation, and educational and recreational opportunities. We express DarkSky International's values with a totally volunteer grassroots advocacy, native to Pennsylvania, with Pennsylvania centric values.
- International DarkSky Week is an opportunity to join with other chapters and organizations across Pennsylvania, the United States, and internationally, in celebrating the night sky and to help raise awareness of the benefits of community-friendly lighting and our shared heritage of Pennsylvania's naturally dark night skies.
- www.darksky.org and www.darksky.pa.org

[WHEREAS STATEMENTS]

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside the local communities.; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant detrimental impacts on ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Pennsylvania, live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to

roughly \$3 billion or 21 million tons of CO2 emissions per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

[LOCALIZED WHEREAS STATEMENTS]

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to numerous astronomical clubs and organizations, many of which offer public night sky programs and educational outreach led by dedicated volunteers, inspiring the next generation in STEM, the arts, and cultural studies. These organizations host many star parties, providing enriching experiences for Pennsylvania residents and visitors alike. Pennsylvania's naturally dark night skies offer unique opportunities for nighttime recreation and stargazing, providing residents with a renewable resource for mindful engagement with nature and a deeper appreciation for Pennsylvania's natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Cherry Springs State Park, the Commonwealth's first International Dark Sky Park, draws 150,000 visitors a year. Additionally, large number of inquiries related to dark skies indicates a potential for further development of additional sites such as Mays Hollow Skyway in Cameron County and the acknowledgement of the naturally dark night sky as a valuable renewable resource; and

WHEREAS, countless migratory birds traverse Pennsylvania each year, often flying at night, and are vulnerable to disorientation and collisions with buildings and infrastructure due to light pollution and skyglow, prompting vital "Lights Out for Birds" campaigns initiated and supported by numerous Pennsylvania organizations and conservancies; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania boasts a rich tapestry of nocturnal wildlife, including migratory species like the Saw-Whet Owl and permanent residents such as the Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, flying squirrel, American woodcock, beaver, raccoon, opossum, skunk, and bats. These nocturnal animals play vital ecological roles: bats serve as natural insect control, owls regulate rodent populations, and moths contribute to the pollination of flowers and crops; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's nocturnal insects contribute to the State's unique natural heritage, from the enchanting displays of common fireflies and the rare synchronous firefly, celebrated at the Pennsylvania Firefly Festival, to our many moth species celebrated at our observance of National Moth Week; and

WHEREAS, the crucial ecological services provided by nocturnal creatures underscore the critical importance of protecting and preserving their nighttime habitats for their continued well-being and ours; and

[END of LOCALIZED STATEMENTS]

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

Now, Therefore, I, [OFFICIAL'S NAME], [TITLE] of [MUNICIPALITY/STATE/COUNTRY], do hereby declare April 13 - 20, 2025 as

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and ask each resident to join me not only in observing and pondering upon this important week but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious naturally dark night sky as a resource.