

# Colorado Stargazing

PROTECT THE NIGHT

Colorado is home to a growing number of International Dark Sky Places where the night sky is protected, and with your help we can keep our skies naturally dark so the stars can shine!

## THE PROBLEM WITH LIGHT POLLUTION

Too much artificial light at night blocks our view of the stars. Not only that, light pollution is bad for our health and bad for the environment. It has been scientifically linked to harmful impacts on the health and well-being of virtually all life studied. Plus, it wastes money, energy, and is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

## LUCKY YOU.

## YOU'RE IN COLORADO.

You are in a very special place. 80% of Americans cannot see the type of night sky you have the privilege of viewing here. In recognition of our world-class views of the night sky, Colorado is home to a growing number of certified International Dark Sky Places where the natural night is protected and where residents and visitors can find programs, events, and other opportunities to connect with the night.

## PROTECT THE NIGHT

Colorado's dark skies do not come easily. They are earned through education and action. Let's keep it dark! Do your part to Protect the Night. Whether camping in the great outdoors, enjoying a vacation, or just staying at home, follow the 5 Principles of Responsible Lighting:

- \* **USEFUL** All light should have a clear purpose.
- \* **TARGETED** Light should be directed only where needed, inside and outside.
- \* **LOW LIGHT LEVELS** Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- \* **CONTROLLED** Light should be used only when it is useful.
- \* **COLOR** Use warmer color lights where possible.

## DARK SKY CAMPING GUIDELINES

Use light responsibly to minimize the impact on your surrounding environment and to make camping an enjoyable experience for all.

- \* Light your site, not the night.
- \* Shield your lights and point them down.
- \* Use warmer color light (like red light) if light is needed.
- \* Avoid unneeded and excessive light (such as decorative lighting, landscape lighting, string lighting, etc.).
- \* Consider stargazing as an alternative to a campfire.
- \* Refrain from driving in the camping areas from dusk to dawn.
- \* When it's after dark... Lights off, STARS ON!