

# Welcome! Colorado Chapter International Dark Sky Association



INTERNATIONAL  
DARK-SKY  
ASSOCIATION



Thank you for being a part of IDA Colorado!

IDA Colorado's mission is to connect our members to the people and resources they need to advance dark-sky work, including promoting lighting best practices, promoting IDA-recommended governmental policy, and recognizing Dark Sky Places.

The [International Dark Sky Association](#) (IDA) works to recognize Dark Sky Places, improve outdoor lighting to protect dark skies while increasing efficiency and safety, make fixture recommendations, provide education and outreach on a number of issues, and influence public policy and perception. The International Dark-Sky Association is the recognized authority on light pollution and is the leading organization combating light pollution worldwide. Sign up for IDA's email news and updates [here](#).

Find us on social media:

Facebook: International Dark-Sky Association - Colorado Chapter

Instagram: @idacolorado

Website: <https://idacolorado.xyz>

## Light Pollution Affects Us All!



Wildlife



Health



Energy



Heritage



Safety

There are many ways to be involved in the work of protecting dark skies locally and being a guardian of this wonderful resource here in Colorado and beyond. We encourage every member to get involved however you can.

“Losing the Dark” is a good overview of the rationale for preserving and restoring dark skies. Originally a planetarium show, you can watch the video version here: [Losing the Dark](#)

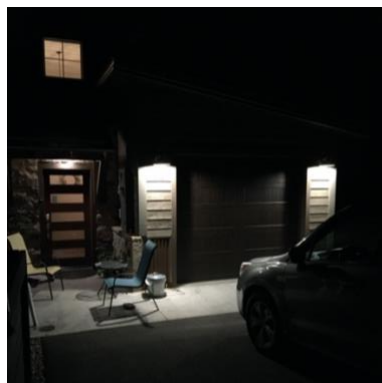
What can I do? Take action now with these ideas!

For more details and links on each, [visit IDA’s Take Action Now page](#).

1. Inspect the [lighting around your home](#): Check your property for inefficient and unnecessary lighting with this [home lighting program](#).
2. Use dark sky friendly lighting at your home and business: Learn the [Five Principles](#) for Responsible Outdoor Lighting and look for the IDA Fixture Seal of Approval.
3. Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors: Raise awareness of the problem of light pollution in your community, city, and state.
4. Spread the word online: Engage your online community about the issues and [supporting IDA](#). Share our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as our [website](#).
5. [Shop IDA](#): Buy the things you need and support IDA by taking part in programs that give back a percentage of sales including Amazon Smile, EBay for Charity, and Tspring.
6. Heed our calls to action: [Sign-up for newsletters](#), and stay informed about threats to our dark skies and opportunities for protection and education, and communicate these to your local chapter.
7. [Join or start a chapter](#): Become a member if you are not one already; if there is not a chapter locally, find like-minded people and start your own.
8. Become a [citizen scientist](#): Be part of the global community helping scientists measure and study light pollution.
9. Set up a table at a local event: You can educate others at community events by sharing and discussing using our [public outreach materials](#).
10. Give a talk: Organizations such as clubs, service groups and many more have periodic guest speakers. Volunteer to spread the message about light pollution and dark skies.
11. Advocate for a [lighting ordinance](#) in your town: Find out if your town has a lighting ordinance, and if so, is it being enforced? If not work with IDA to get one passed.
12. Visit an International Dark Sky Park, Community, or Preserve: Recognize these special places and the communities that support them with your tourist dollars.

Here are some of the ways we are implementing these ideas in Colorado:

- Quality lighting can be found around the state; this example of well-shielded lighting is from Winter Park, CO



Lighting for dark skies, health, and safety can be technical and intimidating but IDA has good information to break it down for you and also provides a Fixture Seal of Approval program to make it easy for you to find well-shielded lights with the proper color temperature. Detailed information on eye-sight friendly lighting: [See more information](#)



• Our chapter members present to local neighborhood groups and set up information booths about lighting improvements at various fairs and festivals. We can help you do the same by sharing brochures, providing outlines and talking points, or even attending as support for your own neighborhood efforts. See what's available [here](#) or talk to one of our chapter leaders.



• Star Parties and Astronomy Outreach Programs are presented by our members at parks and for school and private groups. These efforts spread the word about the efforts of IDA and help excite community members about the wonders of nature and the universe.





• Dark Sky Parks, Preserves, and Communities are becoming something that Colorado is known for. To receive this [designation from IDA](#), strict protocols are adhered to and we can assist in these efforts as members of the Colorado Chapter. The Dark Sky Places program recognizes and promotes excellent stewardship of the night sky and brings many benefits to the communities involved.



Dark Sky Places in Colorado (as of 7/2020)

Communities: Norwood, Ridgway, Westcliffe and Silver Cliff

Parks: Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Questions, comments, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome. We can't wait to hear from you!

Directory of Colorado Chapter Board Members: