



## FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

April 21, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Visit Another world and Never Leave Home It's International Dark Sky Week through April 24 Contact Shaaron Netherton at [shaaron@nevadawilderness.org](mailto:shaaron@nevadawilderness.org)**

**Reno, NV.** - Friends of Nevada Wilderness invites all Nevadans to take a trip to a magical place this week...and stay safe at the same time.

To celebrate International Dark Sky Week, Nevadans are encouraged to step outside after dark one evening or every evening this week to take an imaginary trip to a galaxy far, far away. Those fortunate to live away from city lights or who are willing to take the family for a little drive out of town will be richly rewarded with a view of the Milky Way that is impossible to see when surrounded by artificial light.

Most of us have never experienced times like we're in right now," said Friends Executive Director Shaaron Netherton. "We're all looking for creative ways to get through the days and keep a positive outlook at the same time. There's no better way to refresh our perspective than to gaze up into a truly dark sky and be totally awestruck by what we see."

The moon will be in its darkest phase this week (the new moon is April 22, which is also Earth Day!), meaning more stars will be visible and will appear at their brightest. While springtime weather in Nevada is difficult to forecast, there is a good chance skies will be clear enough sometime during the week for some prime star gazing.

Because so much of Nevada is land owned by the public and remains wide open space, it is home to some of the darkest skies in the country. In fact, the Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area in far northern Washoe County is one of just eleven Dark Sky Sanctuaries in the world. Visit our website to learn more about [Nevada's dark skies](#). And visit Friends' [Kids Corner](#) to learn about how to explore dark skies and other wild places without leaving home. [Great Basin National Park](#) also sponsors star gazing activities (when normal activity resumes.)

"During these challenging times, I think about what the great conservationist Teddy Roosevelt said more than a hundred years ago...'keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.'" Netherton added. "We hope everyone will pause this week to celebrate Nevada's wondrous starry skies while keeping their feet firmly planted on the ground and doing what we have to do to get through this together."

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International Dark Sky Week is sponsored by the [International Dark Sky Association](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. IDA is also encouraging families to get out and "[Look Up Together](#)" during International Dark Sky Week.

**About Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect over 3.4 million acres of Nevada's wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 70 Wilderness areas in the state. Over the past twenty years, the Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program has generated over \$2 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada's public lands. For more information, visit <http://www.nevadawilderness.org/>.