



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

## MEMORANDUM

To: IDA Chapters, Advocates, International Dark Sky Place Managers

From: Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director

Date: March 16, 2020

**Subject: [ACTION REQUIRED] Temporary Suspension of Group Outreach Activities for Advocates and International Dark Sky Places**

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Dear [First Name],

Following COVID-19 preparedness recommendations from health organizations around the world, IDA is suspending requirements for outreach activities. The suspension is in effect immediately and will be in place for at least the next eight weeks. **IDA requests all chapters, advocates, and International Dark Sky Place managers cancel or postpone group gatherings until at least May 11, 2020.** Cancellation of group activities will not impact your standing as an International Dark Sky Place, IDA chapter, IDA affiliate, or IDA advocate.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your IDA contact with any questions. You can reach me via email at [ruskin@darksky.org](mailto:ruskin@darksky.org).

### **International Dark Sky Week April 19-26.**

IDA will be distributing guidance and suggestions for online engagement during International Dark Sky Week. Please watch for further communication from IDA.

### **Do you have ideas for digital dark sky engagement?**

We'd like to hear from you. How is your group or organization incorporating social distancing into dark sky activities?

The night and its star-filled sky will be a source of comfort and inspiration for many around the world at this time. How are you encouraging people to experience the night while socially distancing? Share your stay-at-home education, family, and general outreach activities with IDA's Senior Director of Outreach, Amanda Gormley at [amanda@darksky.org](mailto:amanda@darksky.org).

Keep looking up,

Ruskin Hartley  
Executive Director