

International Dark Sky Association - Missouri Chapter



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION
MISSOURI CHAPTER

ATTN: CALENDAR, NEWSROOM, OR PSA EDITOR
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VR Film on Light Pollution Featuring Gateway Arch National Park

The **Missouri Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association** (“IDA Missouri”) is pleased to announce the release of a virtual reality film entitled “**Night Sky Heritage at the Gateway National Park**”. The eight-minute, immersive experience provides a 360-degree panoramic view of the night sky above the grounds of the Gateway Arch National Park. The loss of our night sky heritage is illustrated in terms of the Bortle Scale, a nine-level numeric scale that provides a consistent standard for comparing skies with differing levels of light pollution. Viewers can seamlessly pan the night sky in all directions as if standing on the grounds of the **Gateway Arch National Park**. Visit DarkSkyMissouri.org/vrfilm to view the film at no cost.

The film is a creation of **Bentley Ousley**, film maker, computer programmer, composer and musician from Kansas City, Missouri, and is narrated by **Dr. Vayujeet Gokhale**, Associate Professor of Physics, **Truman State University** in Kirksville, Missouri. Over the past decade, Ousley has worked extensively with immersive film and ambient music compositions, one of which earned him the Grand Prize in the Warner Brothers Pictures’ “Inspiring the Future” competition. Gokhale has spearheaded IDA Missouri’s program to measure sky brightness in Missouri.

“This amazing film is an exciting way to show how misdirected light is causing us to lose our night sky heritage.” said **Don Ficken**, President of IDA Missouri. “We encourage governments, businesses, and the public to adopt responsible lighting principles to protect our Missouri night skies from light pollution.”

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IDA Missouri is an approved chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association and shares tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) chapter. IDA Missouri, LLC, is also registered with the Missouri Secretary of State. For more information about the International Dark-Sky Association, please visit www.darksky.org. For more information about IDA Missouri or to request information on how to become involved, please visit www.darkskymissouri.org

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