



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, more than 80% of residents in North America can no longer view the Milky Way at night from their home;

Whereas, Utah is home to some of the darkest skies on earth and currently leads the world in dark sky preservation with 24 accredited International Dark Sky places including all of the Mighty 5® national parks, 10 state parks, and two towns;

Whereas, visitors to Utah engaging in astrotourism tend to stay longer, spend more, and mitigate harmful tourism impacts on the local community;

Whereas, astrotourism is anticipated to generate nearly \$6 billion and support over 113,000 new jobs in the American Southwest over the next decade;

Whereas, star-gazing, astronomy programs, star parties, dark sky photography and many other activities allow Utah residents and visitors to enjoy the physical and emotional benefits of the night sky;

Whereas, the implementation of dark sky practices in land use, construction, utilities, and other aspects of community life actively promotes local governance, reduces energy costs, and preserves Utah's Western lifestyle;

Whereas, dark skies are integral to the well-being of many animal and plant species, and are demonstrated to have positive health impacts to human beings; and,

Whereas, we wish to recognize the efforts and advocacy of federal, state, local, and non-profit agencies, as well as Utah's recreation, tourism, and education sectors, which make night sky opportunities in our state available for all to enjoy;

Now, Therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare April 2023 as

Utah Dark Sky Month

Spencer J. Cox
Governor