

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's star-filled skies are a part of the state's natural heritage, and the experience of standing beneath a dark, star-filled night sky can inspire feelings of wonder and awe, and may even encourage interest in science and nature, particularly in young people; and

WHEREAS; light pollution, which refers to excessive artificial light that brightens the night sky through glare, light trespass, sky glow, or over lighting, threatens the state's natural night environment, disrupts ecosystems, and can harm wildlife by altering natural behavioral and migration patterns; and

WHEREAS; according to DarkSky International, light pollution can also impact human health by disrupting sleep patterns, raising stress levels, and leading to a range of health problems, including increased risk for obesity and depression; and

WHEREAS; unlike several other forms of pollution, light pollution is reversible, and communities that implement efficient lighting strategies can enhance public safety by minimizing glare while ensuring sufficient illumination for streets and public spaces; and

WHEREAS; Newport State Park at the far end of the Door Peninsula was designated as Wisconsin's first Dark Sky Park by DarkSky International in 2017 in recognition of its adherence to dark sky principles; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated organizations and vested individuals across the state in celebrating the night sky, raising awareness of light pollution, and promoting the use of environmentally responsible lighting around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,

do hereby proclaim April 13 – 20, 2026, as

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 25th day of March 2026.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State