



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION
MISSOURI CHAPTER

International Dark Sky Association - Missouri Chapter

ATTN: CALENDAR, NEWSROOM, OR PSA EDITOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Light Pollution Measurement Program Launched in Missouri

The **Missouri Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association** (“IDA Missouri”), in partnership with **Truman State University** in Kirksville, Missouri, is launching a program entitled “**Missouri Sky Quality Meter Program**” that will deploy **Sky Quality Meters** (“SQMs”) at selected locations throughout the state of Missouri to measure sky brightness. The SQMs will be directed toward a fixed point in the sky to log data for scientific analysis and to develop programs to reduce light pollution. The program will launch in October 2019 with eight SQMs manufactured by Unihedron with the purchase of more units planned. The SQMs cost between \$300.00 and \$375.00 each, depending on additional features needed to support an installation site. Each SQM device, packaged in hardy weatherproof cases approximately the size of 20-oz water bottle, is relatively easy to install and use. Funding for purchase of the SQMs is provided by the **NASA-Missouri Space Grant Consortium**.

Deployment of the SQM's will be determined by an application process available to public institutions located in Missouri such as parks and recreational areas, educational institutions and municipalities. Applications will be accepted starting in August 2019 with installation sites selected based on a variety of criteria such as the scientific usefulness of the data and the potential for the installation site to implement programs to reduce light pollution. Learn more about the program and application process at www.darkskymissouri.org/programs

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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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