

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Titusville, FL - August 1, 2026 - Brevard Astronomical Society, Inc. will host a special public program, "Celebration of the Night Sky" focused on the preservation of dark skies and the impact of light pollution on Florida's Space Coast. The event will take place on Wednesday, August 19th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at Sands Space History Center, 100 Cape Canaveral Way, Cape Canaveral.

As a coastal community, Brevard County faces unique challenges regarding light pollution, which directly impacts local ecosystems, including sea turtle nesting habits, migratory birds, and the community's view of the night sky. This special program will educate residents on the economic, environmental, and health benefits of reducing artificial light at night, while offering actionable steps for local homeowners and businesses.

The program features:

- Screening of the award-winning independent documentary film "Defending the Dark" by Tara Roberts Zabriskie, made on behalf of Dark Sky Maine and which previously aired on PBS.
- Following the film, we will have a discussion of the impact and importance of reducing light pollution from local community organizations.

"Preserving our night skies is about protecting Brevard County's unique natural heritage," said Steven Izzo, President Brevard Astronomical Society. "Simple changes in how we use outdoor lighting can save energy, protect our wildlife, and restore the natural views of the stars that make the Space Coast so special."

The event is free to attend and open to the public. Seating may be limited.

### Media Opportunities:

Journalists, photographers, and camera crews are invited to attend. Interviews with local speakers will be available before and after the presentation.

### About Brevard Astronomical Society, Inc.:

Brevard Astronomical Society has existed in Brevard County for over 40 years. One of our key missions is an active outreach program for our community to observe the wonders of the night sky. Each year members volunteer to use their personal equipment for astronomy nights and STEM

events for local schools, churches, parks, scouting, and other groups. Meetings and public events are free and open to all.

## Background

(1) With the advent of electric lighting humans have been turning night into day, a catalyst for our technological advancement, but at a cost.

(2) Increasing light pollution has been shown to have adverse effects on the environment, human health, energy waste and the loss of cultural heritage. The natural nighttime sky has been called the greatest source of awe and wonder in human history and is a major influence on our science, literature, music, art, and religion.

(3) The effect of artificial light at night on nesting and migration behavior of birds and sea turtles is well documented.

(4) Nearly 90 percent of people living in North America live under light polluted skies, with at least three fourths of people in the United States unable to see the Milky Way from their homes and only a very small number of just the brightest stars. Even constellation patterns become invisible due to light pollution.

(5) People are now travelling up to hundreds of miles to see star-filled skies, while many of our young people are losing their connection to nature including the night sky. Based on satellite and on-the-ground measurements, the persistent sky glow in populated areas increased by nearly 10 percent per year between 2012 and 2023.