

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2026



DARK SKY FESTIVAL

SEQUOIA and KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

2026 EVENT GUIDE

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PARK INFORMATION

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were established to protect giant sequoia trees, the largest trees on Earth by volume.



These two parks, which lie side by side in the southern Sierra Nevada in Central California, serve as prime examples of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. In 2025, over two million visitors from across the United States and around the world came to experience the giant sequoia groves, grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, the highest point in the contiguous United States, and more.



**DOWNLOAD THE
PARK APP TODAY!**

SEQUOIA PARKS CONSERVANCY

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Sequoia Parks Conservancy is the official nonprofit partner of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and USACE Lake Kaweah. Through strategic fundraising programs, we help to protect delicate ecosystems, promote understanding of cultural resources, support science and research, and improve recreational opportunities. Together, we forge a powerful alliance dedicated to sustainable stewardship, ensuring the longevity and vitality of these cherished landscapes for future generations.



CONNECT

@sequoiaparksconservancy





WELCOME TO THE 13TH ANNUAL DARK SKY FESTIVAL

Every year, the Dark Sky Festival invites us to stop, look up, and remember why the night skies matter. Across much of the world, natural darkness is disappearing along with our connection to the night sky. Here in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, we are fortunate to steward one of the remaining places where the Milky Way still shines brightly overhead—a responsibility we do not take lightly.

As the official nonprofit partner of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Lake Kaweah, Sequoia Parks Conservancy serves as the connection point between these extraordinary places and our surrounding communities. The Dark Sky Festival is made possible by this spirit of collaboration: bringing together the National Park Service, scientists and educators, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Kaweah to extend festival programming directly into Three Rivers.

At its heart, this festival is about connecting to the Parks, the night sky, and one another. Over the weekend, you will hear from leading voices in astronomy, explore daytime programs, and stand beneath a canopy of stars during our evening star parties. Whether this is your first Dark Sky Festival or your thirteenth, we hope you leave with a renewed sense of wonder and a reminder of how much is worth protecting.

Thank you for joining us and helping keep the night sky dark enough to see.



Savannah Boiano
President & CEO
Sequoia Parks Conservancy



IMPORTANT FESTIVAL INFORMATION

COME PREPARED

- Bring warm layers. Mountain temperatures drop quickly after sunset.
- Carry water and wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Fill up your gas tank before entering the parks. There are no gas or vehicle-charging stations inside the parks.
- Check current conditions before heading into the parks.

WILDLIFE AND FOOD

- Never leave food, coolers, trash, or scented items unattended.
- Store these items in a provided food-storage box or out of sight in your vehicle's trunk.
- Dispose of trash in bear-resistant bins and keep campsites clean.
- Drive slowly and stay alert for wildlife, especially at night. Animals may emerge from dark areas, and collisions can be fatal for both people and wildlife.

AFTER DARK

- Walk carefully. Lighting will be limited to protect night-sky viewing.
- Use a red-light flashlight or headlamp.
- Turn off camera flashes and dim phone screens.
- Do not touch or lean on telescopes.
- Wait behind the lighted cones until you are invited forward.
- Need help? Look for festival staff wearing red string lights.

PARKING AND SHUTTLES

- Parking may be limited. Arrive early and follow posted directions.
- Drive slowly and watch for wildlife, especially after dark.
- Friday Night: Shuttles run from Grant Grove to Big Stump Picnic Area.
- Saturday Night: Shuttles run from Lodgepole to Wuksachi Lodge.
- **Plan ahead so you do not miss the final shuttle.**



STAR PARTY SHUTTLE INFO

Park shuttles will be available to transport guests to the Star Parties on both Friday and Saturday nights.

Kings Canyon Star Party

Big Stump Parking Lot

Friday, September 11, 2026

Shuttle hours: 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Park at the Grant Grove Village parking area and ride the park shuttle to the Big Stump Parking Lot.

Sequoia Star Party

Wuksachi Lodge Back Parking Lot

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Shuttle hours: 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Park at the Lodgepole Campground parking area and ride the park shuttle to Wuksachi Lodge.

INFORMATION AND HELP

For current road, weather, fire and park information, dial:

(559) 565-3341

Press 1, then 1 again for road conditions.

In an emergency, dial 911.

<https://www.nps.gov/seki>



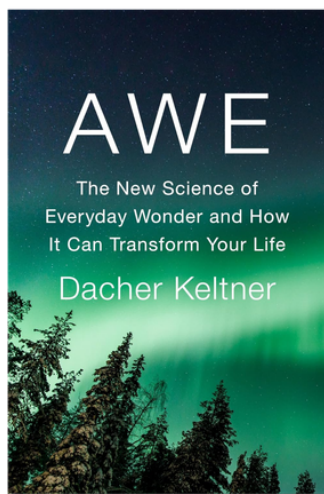
AWE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DACHER KELTNER

Distinguished Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley and faculty director of the Greater Good Science Center, and best-selling author

Dacher Keltner is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley and faculty director of the Greater Good Science Center, where he hosts the award-winning podcast *The Science of Happiness*. His research explores the biological and cultural roots of awe, compassion, love, and humility, as well as power, social class, and inequality. He is the author of nearly 300 scientific articles and several best-selling books, including *AWE: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*. Dacher has consulted for organizations including Apple, Google, Pixar, and the National Parks, where his research on awe played a key role in shaping the Wowsabouts, who filmed their pilot episode in Sequoia National Park.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The New Science of Awe

Dacher Keltner

September 12, 2026 | 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater

In this keynote, Dacher Keltner will unpack the emerging science of awe, from its evolutionary roots and cultural expressions to its measurable effects on the nervous system and its power to expand our sense of connection to something larger than ourselves. He'll turn to "wild awe," exploring how experiences in nature produce some of the most profound and restorative forms of awe, benefiting both mind and body. Along the way, Dacher will guide the audience through simple, practical awe exercises they can use to bring more wonder into everyday life.

FEATURED

Awe Walk in Grant Grove

Dacher Keltner

September 11, 2026 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Meet at Kings Canyon Visitor Center



WILDLIFE AND DARK SKIES

NPS / Hannah Roodenrijs

As the last light of sunset fades on the peaks of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, a different world begins to awaken. While many visitors are settling in for an evening of stargazing, bats take to the skies, owls begin their nightly hunts, and countless other animals emerge under the cover of darkness. These parks are not only home to spectacular night skies, but also to a diverse community of wildlife that depends on natural darkness.

The dark skies celebrated during this festival are more than a beautiful backdrop for viewing the stars. For many animals, darkness is an essential part of life. Artificial light at night can disrupt natural behaviors, alter feeding and migration patterns, and interfere with the rhythms that species have relied on for thousands of years.

NOCTURNAL SPECIES IN THE PARKS

Few animals capture the spirit of the night like bats. Seventeen species of bats live in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, making them some of the most important nighttime residents. These

remarkable flying mammals can consume enormous numbers of insects each night, helping maintain a healthy ecosystem. Using echolocation, bats navigate and hunt in complete darkness by interpreting the echoes of their own calls.

Owls are another iconic symbol of nighttime wilderness. Although not every owl species is strictly nocturnal, most of the 11 species found in the parks are most active after dark. With exceptional hearing, keen eyesight, and nearly silent flight, owls are highly skilled nighttime hunters, searching for rodents and other prey beneath the stars.

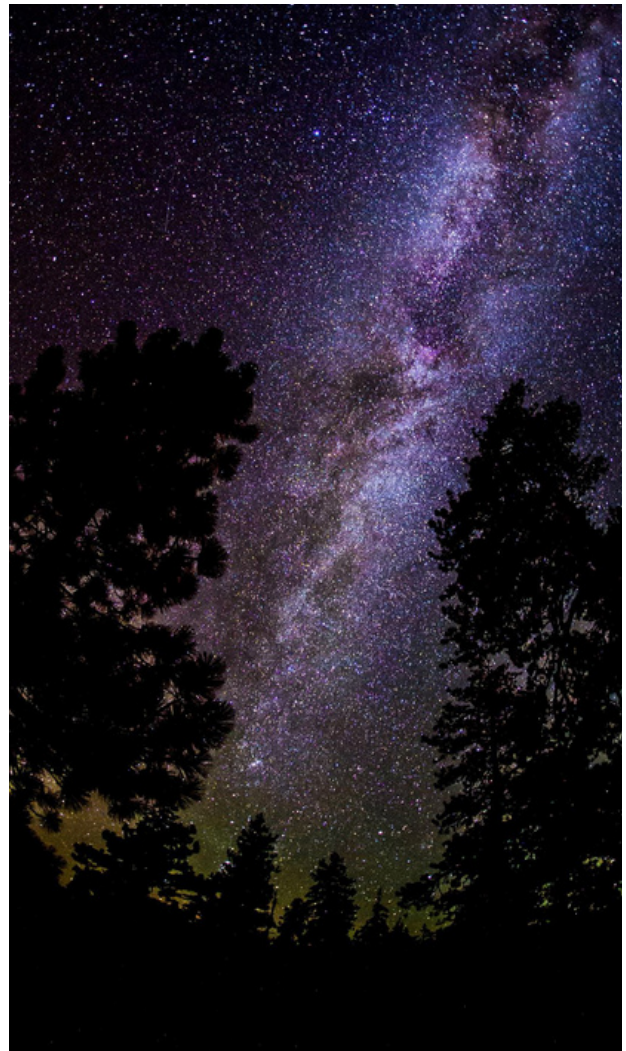
The parks are also home to a variety of nocturnal mammals. One fascinating species is the ringtail, a rarely seen relative of the raccoon. Agile and elusive, this small carnivore spends much of its life hidden from human view, emerging after sunset to explore rocky canyons and forest habitats in search of food. For many visitors, knowing these secretive animals are active nearby adds another layer of wonder to the nighttime landscape.

IMPACTS OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AT NIGHT ON WILDLIFE

Just as people follow daily schedules, wildlife follow rhythms set by natural cycles of light and darkness. Animals and plants use these rhythms to guide important life events such as feeding, migration, reproduction, and seasonal behavior. When artificial light brightens the night, these natural cues can become disrupted.

For many species, darkness provides safety. Nocturnal animals often use the cover of night to avoid predators while searching for food. Artificial lighting can make wildlife more visible and vulnerable. Insects are frequently attracted to bright lights, increasing their risk of predation. Some bats may avoid brightly lit areas altogether because the additional light makes them easier targets for predators such as owls.

Dark skies are also critical for migrating birds. Many songbirds travel at night, using the stars and moon as natural navigation tools while benefiting from cooler temperatures and reduced risk from predators. Artificial lighting can confuse migrating birds, alter migration timing, and even draw them away from their intended routes.



PROTECTING THE NIGHT

As you enjoy the stars during the Dark Sky Festival, remember that the darkness above is just as important to wildlife as it is to astronomers and stargazers. By protecting natural night skies, we help preserve habitat for bats, owls, migratory birds, and countless other species that depend on the night. Every dark sky is an opportunity to experience the park as wildlife has for generations: illuminated by moonlight, starlight, and the natural wonder of the night.

THE LONGEST VIEW: WHY DARKNESS BELONGS IN OUR PARKS

Sequoia Parks Conservancy / Staff

People come to Sequoia and Kings Canyon to be awed.

They stand at the base of a tree that was ancient when the Roman Empire was young, fed by the light of our own star. They walk into a marble cave where an inch of calcite takes a century to grow, and the formations began before history was written. Then the sun goes down, and the sky fills with starlight that began its journey across space long before either the tree or the cave existed.

Time runs through everything in these parks. The sequoias measure it in centuries. The caves measure it in millennia. The stars measure it in billions of years. When we lose the dark, we lose the longest view.

LIGHT IS NATURAL. SOME OF IT ISN'T.

The moon rises and sets, and stars wheel overhead. Life on Earth evolved inside that

rhythm of bright day and dark night, and a great deal of it still depends on the rhythm holding. Owls hunt by it. Birds migrate by the stars, night after night, across thousands of miles.

Artificial light writes over all of that. A single bright fixture can pull insects away from the plants that need them. A glow on the horizon can send a migrating bird off course. The light we add at night doesn't add to the dark. It replaces it.

DARKNESS CONNECTS US

For most of human history, people could step outside and see a sky filled with stars. The night sky helped people mark the seasons, navigate across long distances, share stories, and wonder about their place in the universe.

Today, light pollution creates a glow that can hide all but the brightest stars. A clear view of the Milky Way is now uncommon in many places. National parks are among the few remaining



Dark skies are increasingly hard to come by in the United States. The more remote areas of the parks are one of the few relatively dark areas left in California.

NASA Photo

places where people can experience a richly star-filled sky. Standing beneath that sky connects us to people who looked up long before us. It can also change our sense of scale. The universe feels larger, and our daily concerns feel smaller. That feeling of awe is one reason dark skies matter.

THE PROBLEM YOU CAN SOLVE TONIGHT

Most environmental pollution takes decades of policy, funding, and slow recovery. Light pollution is different. Turn off a light and the dark returns instantly. Nothing has to heal.

DarkSky International's Five Principles:

Useful: Light should have a clear purpose and only be used when needed.

Targeted: Light should be directed downward and not spill beyond where it is needed.

Low level: Light should be no brighter than necessary for the task.

Controlled: Light should be used only when needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not in use.

Warm-colored: Use warmer-colored lights (lower color temperatures) where possible to limit blue light emissions.

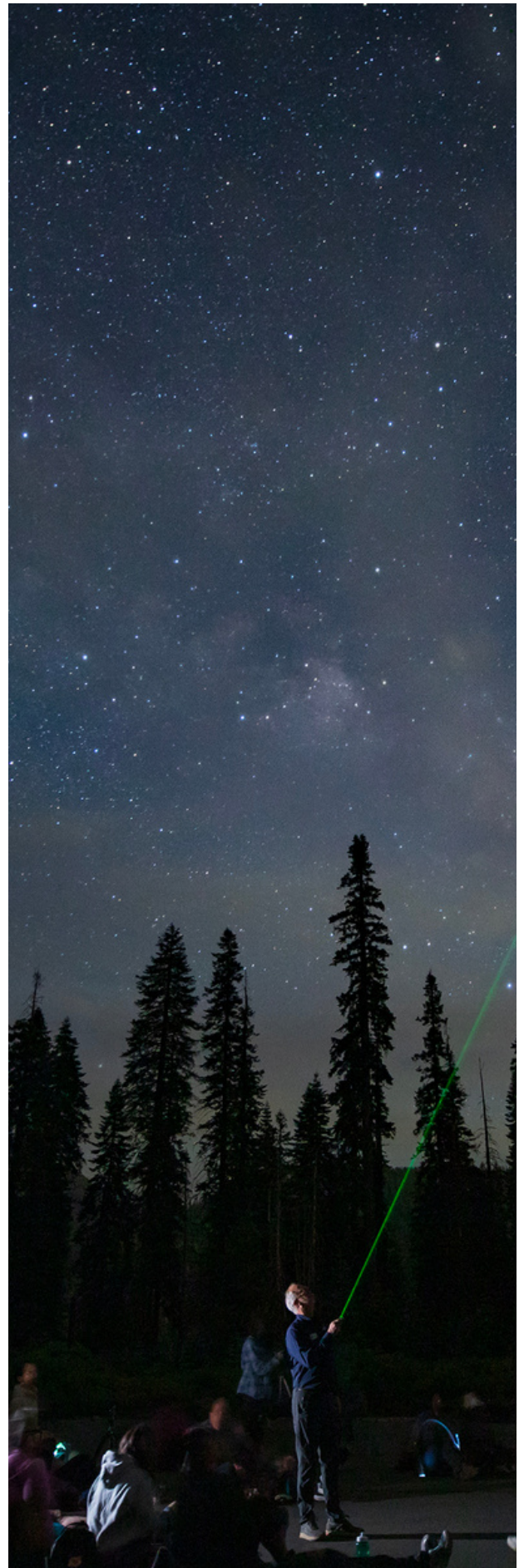
So tonight, walk out your front door and look at your lights. Which switch can you simply turn off? Which fixture is throwing light sideways into a neighbor's window or straight up into the sky, and could be shielded or aimed down?

Get the light you need, and give the sky back the darkness.

WORTH PROTECTING

The Dark Sky Festival is about more than picking out stars and galaxies. It is about caring for a part of our place that is easy to overlook.

When we protect the dark, we protect wildlife. We give the next generation the chance to stand under a truly dark sky, look up, and ask the same questions people have been asking for thousands of years.



KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026		
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	 Awe Walk in Grant Grove Dacher Keltner - Keynote Speaker 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Meet at Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	From Galileo to Smart Telescopes Kings Canyon Visitor Center	Sun Zone! Grant Grove Village 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Rotational Dynamics, Milankovitch Cycles, and Planetary Glaciation Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	The Wonders of the Dark Skies: Astrophotography, Astronomy, Light Pollution Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Dark Sky Junior Ranger - Stories of the Stars Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Bright Eyes, Big Ears, and Bushy Tails Cedar Grove Visitor Center	
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Bat Walk Meet at Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	The Stars in Your Backyard Cedar Grove Visitor Center	
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Nightscape Program Bradley Meadow in Grant Grove Village	
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Kings Canyon Star Party Big Stump Picnic Area	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026		
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Festival Central Grant Grove Village	
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Dark Sky Junior Ranger - Stories of the Stars Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
8:00 pm - 8:45 pm	Astronomy Over the Ages Cedar Grove Amphitheater	
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Night Hike and Stargazing Program Panoramic Point	
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026		
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Bright Eyes, Big Ears, and Bushy Tails Cedar Grove Visitor Center	
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	The Stars in Your Backyard Cedar Grove Visitor Center	

GRANT GROVE AREA

Sun Zone!

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Grant Grove Village

The festival's daytime hub for hands-on activities, solar viewing, and family fun.

Solar Viewing by Sky-Watcher


Sky-Watcher®



Festival Central

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Grant Grove Village

Visit the Sequoia Parks Conservancy tent, the festival's central hub for information, event schedules, and partner insights.

From Galileo to Smart Telescopes

Dennis "Astronomy Guy" Martin

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Galileo began exploring the cosmos in 1608. The first Moon photo followed in 1840. Today, Smart Telescopes automatically locate deep-space objects and stream live color images to your smartphone. Discover how easy it is to explore the universe using an affordable all-in-one Smart Telescope! If Galileo were alive today, he would no doubt be astounded.

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Rotational Dynamics, Milankovitch Cycles, and Planetary Glaciation

Rod Guice

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

This session explores the counterintuitive physics of rotation, from planetary to galactic scales, through hands-on STEM demonstrations. It also covers Dr. Milutin Milankovitch's early-1900s discovery of irregularities in Earth's rotation and orbit, a theory that revealed the astronomical cycles behind planetary glaciation and was later confirmed by ice core research.

The Wonders of Dark Skies:

Astrophotography, Astronomy, Light Pollution, and Prevention

Jeremy Evans

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Learn about light pollution, its effects on health and wildlife, and the simple things we can all do to protect our night skies. Followed by a night sky tour of the darkest places in the western U.S. See photos and videos of the Milky Way, lunar rainbows, meteor showers, distant galaxies, comets, nebulas, and eclipses.

Dark Sky Junior Ranger

Stories of the Stars

NPS Ranger

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

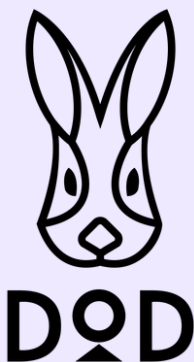
Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Join a ranger for a family-friendly Junior Ranger program to hear stories of the stars and create your own star story!



DRIVE DISTANCE AND TIMES

	Grant Grove Village	Wuksachi Lodge	Lodgepole	Cedar Grove Village
Grant Grove Village		23 mi 50 minutes	26 mi 55 minutes	29 mi 60 minutes
Wuksachi Lodge	23 mi 50 minutes		3 mi 5 minutes	51 mi 100 minutes
Lodgepole	26 mi 55 minutes	3 mi 5 minutes		54 mi 105 minutes
Cedar Grove Village	29 mi 60 minutes	51 mi 100 minutes	54 mi 105 minutes	



Thank You!

"At DOD Outdoors, we believe that getting outside and experiencing nature brings people closer together. We are thrilled to sponsor the Dark Sky Festival and support Sequoia Parks Conservancy in preserving these extraordinary public lands for future generations."

-DOD Outdoors

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

GRANT GROVE AREA

Bat Walk

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

NPS Ranger

Meet in Front of Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Join park wildlife staff for an evening walk exploring the bats of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Enjoy an educational presentation on local bat species and dark skies, then use acoustic devices to detect bats flying overhead in real time. This easy, one-hour program includes a 0.5-mile (0.8 km) walk. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp if available.

Nightscape Program

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Jarred Donkersley

Bradley Meadow in Grant Grove Village

An introductory lecture and workshop open to anyone with a DSLR or mirrorless camera. Learn the basics of nightscape photography, how to plan an imaging session in the city or in dark skies, the tips, techniques, and tools that go into making great nightscape images, and leave with some new knowledge and your very own nightscape photo gallery. Led by Sky-Watcher USA using the Star Adventurer 2i.



STAR PARTY SHUTTLE INFO

Park at the Grant Grove Village parking area and ride the park shuttle to Big Stump Parking Lot.

Shuttle hours: 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

★ STAR PARTY ★

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Big Stump Picnic Area

Parking is limited, please use park shuttles.

Experience the magic of the night sky in Kings Canyon! The Central Valley Astronomers will host an evening in the Big Stump Picnic Area, where telescopes will open a window to galaxies, star clusters, and other deep-sky marvels. Knowledgeable astronomers will be there to share their expertise, answer questions, and help you discover the universe in a whole new way.

Hosted by the Central Valley Astronomers



CEDAR GROVE AREA

Bright Eyes, Big Ears, and Bushy Tails

NPS Ranger

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Join this hands-on, interactive talk at sunset to learn how the nocturnal animals of Kings Canyon adapt to nighttime in the parks. Suitable for all ages.

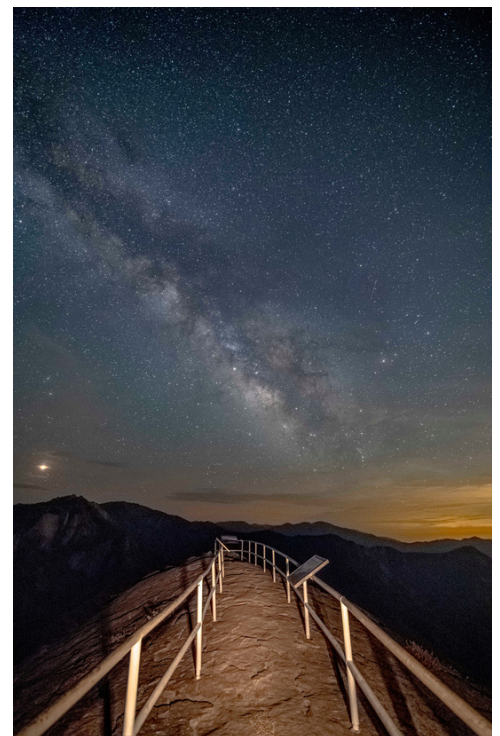
The Stars in Your Backyard

NPS Ranger

8:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Learn which stars are visible from your own backyard, whether you live with the bright lights of a city or the darkness of the mountains.



KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

GRANT GROVE AREA



Festival Central

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Stop by the Sequoia Parks Conservancy tent, the main hub of the Dark Sky Festival. Here you can ask questions, pick up information, and learn more about the programs and partnerships that make this weekend possible.

Dark Sky Junior Ranger

Stories of the Stars

NPS Ranger

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Join a ranger for a family-friendly Junior Ranger program to hear stories of the stars and create your own star story!

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

GRANT GROVE AREA

Night Hike and Stargazing Program

Sequoia Parks Conservancy

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Panoramic Point

Meet at Panoramic Point trailhead for an evening hike to Panoramic Point, where sweeping views of Kings Canyon set the stage for stargazing. At

the overlook, enjoy a naked-eye astronomy program. For this half-mile hike consider bringing a headlamp and a light jacket.

CEDAR GROVE AREA

Astronomy Over the Ages

NPS Ranger

8:00 pm - 8:45 pm

Cedar Grove Amphitheater

Join a ranger in exploring the connections and discoveries that keep us in awe of the important cultural and scientific resource that is our dark sky.

Thank You!

"Bank of the Sierra is proud to support the Sequoia Parks Conservancy and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as they bring the Dark Sky Festival to our community. Their dedication and hard work create a truly remarkable experience that inspires curiosity, promotes education, and allows thousands of visitors to appreciate the beauty of our night skies."

-Bank of the Sierra



BANK OF THE SIERRA.
KEEP CLIMBING

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 EVENING PROGRAMS

CEDAR GROVE AREA

Bright Eyes, Big Ears, and Bushy Tails

NPS Ranger

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Join this hands-on, interactive talk at sunset to learn how the nocturnal animals of Kings Canyon adapt to nighttime in the parks. Suitable for all ages.

The Stars in Your Backyard

NPS Ranger

8:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Learn which stars are visible from your own backyard, whether you live with the bright lights of a city or the darkness of the mountains.



SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

11:00 am - 11:20 am	Creature Feature - Bat Chat Giant Forest Museum
2:00 pm - 2:20 pm	Our Fascination with the Night Sky Giant Forest Museum
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Planets Giant Forest Museum
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	In the Sanctuary of Night Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Sequoia Stargazing Wuksachi Lodge - Meet in Lobby

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

11:00 am - 11:20 am	Creature Feature - The Night Shift Giant Forest Museum				
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Dancing in the Moonlight Beetle Rock Education Center		Unveiling the Secrets of Our Universe From Its First Light Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room		Sun Zone! Featuring Solar Viewing Hosted by Riverside Astronomical Society Lodgepole Plaza 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Creature Feature Bat Chat Giant Forest Museum 2:00 pm - 2:20 pm	Discovering Planets and Measuring Stars Beetle Rock Education Center	What Can Asteroids Teach Us About Our Solar System? Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room		
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Exploding Stars, Then and Now Beetle Rock Education Center	How Empty is "Empty" Space? Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room	Nocturnal Animals Lodgepole Plaza		
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Ask an Astrophysicist Panel, Presented by Caltech Astro Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater				
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Bat Walk Wuksachi Lodge - Meet Outside the Lobby				
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Keynote Address The New Science of Awe Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater				
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sequoia Star Party Wuksachi Lodge - Back Parking Lot				

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

11:00 am - 11:20 am	Creature Feature - Finding Creatures in the Stars Giant Forest Museum	
2:00 pm - 2:20 pm	Starry to Starless Giant Forest Museum	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Family-Friendly Bat Activity Giant Forest Museum	
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Bat Walk Meet at Foothills Visitor Center	The Flip of a Coin Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater

GIANT FOREST AREA

Creature Feature - Bat Chat

NPS Ranger

11:00 am - 11:20 am

Giant Forest Museum

Discover the important role bats play in our nighttime ecosystem of the parks. Learn how bats hunt, what they eat, the challenges they face (like white-nose syndrome), and some simple actions you can take to help protect bats in your own community.

Our Fascination with the Night Sky

NPS Ranger

2:00 pm - 2:20 pm

Giant Forest Museum

For thousands of years, the night sky has captured humanity's imagination. Join this program to explore how stars connect us through stories, science, and wonder.

Planets

NPS Ranger

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Giant Forest Museum

Come learn about the unique habitats found on other planets and brainstorm what characteristics animals would need to survive in them.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

LODGEPOLE AREA



Festival Central

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Lodgepole Plaza

Visit the Sequoia Parks Conservancy tent, the festival's central hub for information, event schedules, and partner insights.

FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

LODGEPOLE AREA

In the Sanctuary of Night

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

NPS Ranger

Lodgepole Campground

Amphitheater

Explore how night impacts plant and animal behavior, how darkness shelters Sequoia National Park, and how you can celebrate and protect one of Earth's rarest resources.

WUKSACHI LODGE

Sequoia Stargazing

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Sequoia Parks Conservancy

Wuksachi Back Parking Lot

The night skies in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are among the darkest in California. Explore the wonders of the universe during this naked-eye astronomy program, where we will take you on a guided visual tour of the stars and constellations.



DRIVE DISTANCE AND TIMES

	Foothills Visitor Center	Giant Forest Museum/Beetle Rock Center	Lodgepole	Wuksachi Lodge	Grant Grove Village
Foothills Visitor Center		16 mi 60 minutes	20 mi 65 minutes	23 mi 70 minutes	48 mi 120 minutes
Giant Forest Museum/Beetle Rock Center	16 mi 60 minutes		4 mi 5 minutes	7 mi 15 minutes	30 mi 65 minutes
Lodgepole	20 mi 65 minutes	4 mi 10 minutes		3 mi 5 minutes	26 mi 55 minutes
Wuksachi Lodge	23 mi 70 minutes	7 mi 15 minutes	3 mi 5 minutes		23 mi 50 minutes
Grant Grove Village	48 mi 120 minutes	30 mi 65 minutes	26 mi 55 minutes	23 mi 50 minutes	

Thank You!



Delaware North

For your continuous support of the Dark Sky Festival.



SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026**

GIANT FOREST AREA

Creature Feature

The Night Shift

NPS Ranger

11:00 am - 11:20 am

Giant Forest Museum

Many animals use the night sky for navigation. Explore the ways that birds, moths, bats, insects and other animals rely on the stars and moon to find their way.

Dancing in the Moonlight

Amy Oliver

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Beetle Rock Education Center

As soon as the sun goes down, Earth's nightclubs are open for business. Under a glittering disco ball of unfettered starlight, some of Earth's most spectacular species of plants, animals, and insects come out to play. Take a pictorial journey through the parties playing out in darkness, and how we can all keep them open for years to come.

Bat Chat

NPS Ranger

2:00 pm - 2:20 pm

Giant Forest Museum

Discover the important role bats play in our nighttime ecosystem of the parks. Learn how bats hunt, what they eat, the challenges they face (like

white-nose syndrome), and some simple actions you can take to help protect bats in your own community.

Discovering Planets and Measuring Stars with the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

Dr. Alison Duck

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Beetle Rock Education Center

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is poised to discover roughly 100,000 exoplanets! This will be a deluge of planets compared to the roughly 6,000 currently known exoplanets, which orbit stars other than the Sun. This presentation will explore how Roman will detect these planets using the transit method and estimate their sizes. Roman will allow researchers to probe exoplanets all the way past the center of the Milky Way and will find the most distant exoplanets ever discovered!

Exploding Stars, Then and Now

Maggie Li, Caltech

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Beetle Rock Education Center

People have been studying the night sky for thousands of years. Sometimes, they would find something unexpected: a new point of light that would appear where no star had been seen before. Today, we know some of these to come from the explosive death of massive stars, or "supernovae." In this talk, we'll understand how studying stellar explosions has changed over time, from the observations made by ancient astronomers to the rise of powerful, modern telescopes. We will then look at the state of the field today and what strange explosions we are discovering now, from the faintest to the brightest, and from our cosmic neighborhood all the way to the furthest reaches of the universe.

Thank You!

PRIME
SANITATION

**For your continuous support of
the Dark Sky Festival.**



SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

LODGEPOLE AREA

Sun Zone!

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Lodgepole Plaza

The festival's daytime hub for hands-on activities, solar viewing, and family fun.



**Solar viewing by Riverside
Astronomical Society and
Sky-Watcher**



Festival Central

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Lodgepole Plaza

Visit the Sequoia Parks Conservancy tent, the festival's central hub for information, event schedules, and partner insights.

Nocturnal Animals

NPS Ranger

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Lodgepole Plaza

Enjoy a hands-on experience to learn about the many nocturnal animals that call Sequoia and Kings Canyon home.



WUKSACHI LODGE

Unveiling the Secrets of our Universe from its First Light

Harshda Saxena, Caltech

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room

The universe began in a massive explosion called the Big Bang. About 300,000 years after this explosion, light was able to escape the hot soup of matter around it and formed the first snapshot of the universe. 13.8 billion years later, join astrophysicists and humanity on a tiny rock called Earth as they use modern telescopes to study this first light to understand the amount of matter in the universe, from the most massive clusters of galaxies to everything in between.

What Can Asteroids Teach Us About Our Solar System?

Becky Williams, Caltech

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room

Asteroids are the fossils of planet formation, preserving key clues from the earliest days of the solar system. With over 1.5 million asteroids discovered so far, each one with a unique story to tell, there's a wealth of information out there waiting to be uncovered. Come fly through the solar system with us as we visit our smallest neighbors in space to see what they can teach us about planet formation, the history of the solar system, and the origins of life.

How Empty Is "Empty" Space?

Delaney White, Caltech

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room

The phrase "empty" space often brings to mind a cold, dark vacuum. In reality, although the space between astronomical objects can be incredibly sparse, it is far from empty and quite diverse. From cold clouds of gas where stars are born to plasma heated to millions of degrees between galaxies, these diffuse environments vary tremendously and shape the objects within them. In this talk, we will explore the material between stars, galaxies, and galaxy clusters and how astronomers observe something that is often nearly invisible.

Thank You!

"Our goal at Nocs Provisions is to preserve the land and sea that is shared by all, so partnering with Sequoia Parks Conservancy, the parks systems and other educational and environmental organizations that serve to protect our natural resources and educate the next generation is essential and such an essential part of our brand and mission."

-Nocs Provisions



**NOCS
PROVISIONS**

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

SATURDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

LODGEPOLE AND WUKSACHI LODGE

Ask An Astrophysicist

Caltech Panel

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater

Join a panel of Caltech astrophysicists for an open Q&A! Bring your burning questions about stars, black holes, galaxies, science fiction, and the universe.

Hosted by Caltech Astro

**Caltech
Astro**

Bat Walk

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

NPS Ranger

Wuksachi Lodge

Meet Outside the Lobby

Join park wildlife staff for an evening walk exploring the bats of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Enjoy an educational presentation on local bat species and dark skies, then use acoustic devices to detect bats flying overhead in real time. This easy, one-hour program includes a 0.5-mile (0.8 km) walk. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp if available.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AWE

The New Science of Awe

Dacher Keltner

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater

In this keynote, Dacher Keltner will unpack the emerging science of awe, from its evolutionary roots and cultural expressions to its measurable effects on the nervous system and its power to expand our sense of connection to something larger than ourselves. He'll turn to "wild awe," exploring how experiences in nature produce some of the most profound and restorative forms of awe, benefiting both mind and body. Along the way, Dacher will guide the audience through simple, practical awe exercises they can use to bring more wonder into everyday life.



STAR PARTY SHUTTLE INFO

Park at the Lodgepole Campground parking area and ride the park shuttle to Wuksachi Lodge.

Shuttle hours: 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

★ STAR PARTY ★

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Wuksachi Lodge

Back Parking Lot

*Parking is limited,
please use park shuttles.*

Join us for the festival's most anticipated event! Powerful telescopes will be set up at the Wuksachi Lodge back parking lot, giving you a chance to gaze at breathtaking astronomical objects. Expert astronomers will guide you to distant galaxies, star clusters, and other deep-sky wonders, answering your questions as the universe comes alive before your eyes.

**Hosted by the Kern
Astronomical Society**



Thank You!



**For your support of the
Dark Sky Festival.**

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

GIANT FOREST AREA

Finding Creatures in the Stars

NPS Ranger

11:00 am - 11:20 am

Giant Forest Museum

For thousands of years, the night sky has captured humanity's imagination. Join this program to explore how wildlife has found its way into constellations and storytelling.

Starry to Starless

NPS Ranger

2:00 pm - 2:20 pm

Giant Forest Museum

Without an inspirational dark canvas brimming with stars, Van Gogh may have never painted "Starry Night." Learn about light pollution and how you can help protect natural night skies, critical to our shared human experience.

Family-Friendly Bat Activity

NPS Ranger

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Giant Forest Museum

Learn about bats and their nocturnal activity through this family-friendly craft.

SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

FOOTHILLS VISITOR CENTER

Bat Walk

NPS Ranger

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Meet at Foothills Visitor Center

Join park wildlife staff for an evening walk exploring the bats of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Enjoy an educational presentation on local bat species and dark skies, then use acoustic devices to detect bats flying overhead in real time. This easy, one-hour program includes a 0.5-mile (0.8 km) walk. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp if available.

LODGEPOLE

The Flip of a Coin

NPS Ranger

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Lodgepole Campground
Amphitheater**

This world sees two drastically different sides every day: night and day. How do wild animals fare with that change? What happens in between?



Thank You!

"The Dark Sky Festival brings visitors to our region for an experience they can't find many places, and that's exactly the kind of tourism story we love to tell. Supporting this festival means supporting something that draws people here while celebrating what makes this part of California so special."

-Visit Visalia



THREE RIVERS and LAKE KAWEAH

THREE RIVERS AND LAKE KAWEAH

✨ SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE ✨

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Dark Sky Detectives Three Rivers Memorial Building	Sun Zone! Three Rivers Memorial Building 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Explore and Photograph the Universe with a Smart Telescope Three Rivers Memorial Building	
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	The Wonders of the Dark Skies: Astrophotography, Astronomy, Light Pollution Three Rivers Memorial Building	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	The New Science of Awe WITH SPECIAL GUEST SEGMENT Building The ABC of Nature: Awe, Belonging, and Contemplation in National Parks and Cultural Centers Three Rivers Memorial Building	
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Foothills Star Party Lake Kaweah - Lemon Hill Parking Lot	

Explore and Photograph the Universe with a Smart Telescope

Dennis “Astronomy Guy” Martin

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Three Rivers Memorial Building

An affordable Smart Telescope and smartphone let you explore and photograph galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters. Learn popular models, features, and simple techniques for top results. No sky knowledge needed! These app-controlled devices automatically locate, track, capture, and process images. They do the work while you take the credit—astrophotography made easy!

The Wonders of Dark Skies:

Astrophotography, Astronomy, Light Pollution, and Prevention

Jeremy Evans

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Three Rivers Memorial Building

Learn about light pollution, its effects on health and wildlife, and simple things we can do to protect night skies. Followed by a night sky tour of the darkest places in the western U.S. See photos and videos of the Milky Way, lunar rainbows, meteor showers, distant galaxies, comets, nebulae, and eclipses.

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

**THREE RIVERS
MEMORIAL BUILDING**

Dark Sky Detectives

Amy Oliver

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Three Rivers Memorial Building

As populations grow and technology changes, darkness is fading fast. But a growing field of science studying light pollution is rooting it out in both likely and unlikely places to determine what keeps skies dark, how its loss can be dialed back, and what the presence or absence of darkness means for the health and future of our world and our view into the universe.

Sun Zone!

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Three Rivers Memorial Building

The festival’s daytime hub for hands-on activities, solar viewing, and family fun.

Solar viewing by Dennis Martin and Sequoia Parks Conservancy.

Celestial Crafts

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Three Rivers Memorial Building

All supplies and materials provided by Kaweah Arts.



Thank You!



**For your support of the
Dark Sky Festival.**

THREE RIVERS and LAKE KAWEAH

AWE

*The New Science
of Awe*

Dacher Keltner



WITH A SPECIAL GUEST SEGMENT
BY DR. YURIA CELIDWEN

**Building The ABC of Nature: Awe,
Belonging, and Contemplation in
National Parks and Cultural Centers**
3:00 pm

Three Rivers Memorial

In this multi-faceted session, Dacher Keltner and Dr. Yuria Celidwen explore the emerging science of awe—from its evolutionary roots and physiological impact on the nervous system to its power to expand our sense of connection. Discover how "wild awe" in nature fosters deep individual restoration and how integrating principles of awe, belonging, and contemplation into public land systems and cultural centers can transform our collective relationship with the natural world. This interactive presentation will also guide attendees through simple, practical awe practices to bring wonder and mindfulness into everyday life.



DRIVE DISTANCE AND TIMES

	Lake Kaweah	Three Rivers Memorial Building	Foothills Visitor Center	Giant Forest
Lake Kaweah		9 mi 15 minutes	12 mi 25 minutes	28 mi 90 minutes
Three Rivers Memorial Building	9 mi 15 minutes		4 mi 15 minutes	20 mi 75 minutes
Foothills Visitor Center	12 mi 25 minutes	4 mi 15 minutes		16 mi 60 minutes
Giant Forest	28 mi 90 minutes	20 mi 75 minutes	16 mi 60 minutes	

LAKE KAWEAH

★ STAR PARTY ★

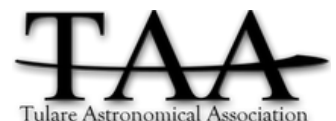
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Lake Kaweah Lemon Hill Parking Lot

Experience the magic of the night sky right in our own backyard at Lake Kaweah. The Tulare Astronomical Society invites you to join us in the Lemon Hill Parking Lot, where telescopes will open a window to

distant galaxies, glowing star clusters, and deep-sky marvels. Knowledgeable local astronomers will be on hand to guide your journey through the cosmos.

**Hosted by the
Tulare Astronomical Association**





SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK



KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK



LAKE KAWEAH

BEHIND THE SCENES: SEQUOIA PARKS CONSERVANCY



Since April 10, 1940, Sequoia Parks Conservancy has been the official nonprofit partner of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. We also partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Kaweah, a critical water source for California's Central Valley. Our mission is to advance critical projects, enrich visitor experiences, and inspire stewardship of the greater Sequoia and Kings Canyon ecosystem.



SUPPORT YOUR PARKS

DONATE TODAY

The Dark Sky Festival depends on the generous support of donors to celebrate and protect our night skies. Your contribution helps us deliver inspiring programs, educational activities, and community events that highlight the beauty and importance of our universe. Scan the QR code to make a donation today.



Together, we can keep our night skies shining bright for all.

BECOME A FRIEND OF SEQUOIA PARKS CONSERVANCY

With a \$35 donation or more, support vital education, conservation, and restoration projects in the parks. Enjoy year-round connection through special programs, events, and offers, plus a 15% discount at park retail locations and online.



Join today: Visit any of our park retail stores or sign up online at bit.ly/spcfriend.



SHOP OUR PARK STORES

Park stores within the visitor centers offer books and other products related to the Parks. All purchases in these stores support park programs through Sequoia Parks Conservancy, **including exclusive Dark Sky Festival merchandise!**



ADVENTURE WITH A PURPOSE

Explore the parks through guided tours with the Sequoia Parks Conservancy Field Institute:

- **Crystal Cave Tours**
- **Stargazing**
- **Sequoia Hikes**
- **Snowshoeing**
- **Private Guiding & More**

All proceeds support vital conservation efforts and help preserve these places for future explorers.



BOOK NOW
SEQUOIAPARKSCONSERVANCY.ORG/ADVENTURES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Pear Lake Winter Hut

Reservations open in November

Experience Sequoia's backcountry from a historic cabin. Sleeping ten, the hut offers comfort after a day of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

Season runs December through April.



Christmas Bird Count

December 19, 2026

Join fellow bird enthusiasts to explore the parks, spot local species, and contribute to vital ongoing conservation efforts.



2027 Dark Sky Festival

August 27-29, 2027

Save the date! The Dark Sky Festival returns to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Join astronomers, scientists, and park experts for stargazing, talks, and family-friendly fun.



FESTIVAL PARTNERS

ASTRONOMY PARTNERS

Caltech Astro
astro.caltech.edu
Pasadena, CA

Central Valley Astronomers
cvafresno.org
Fresno County, CA

Kern Astronomical Society
kernastro.org
Kern County, CA

Riverside Astronomical Society
rivastro.org
Riverside County, CA

Tulare Astronomical Association
tulareastro.org
Tulare County, CA

Sky-Watcher
skywatcherusa.com

PRESENTERS

Alison Duck
Amy Oliver
Becky Williams
Craig Alameda
Dacher Keltner
Delaney White
Dennis Martin
Hannah Roodenrijs
Harshda Saxena
Jarred Donkersley
Jeremy Evans
Maggie Li
National Park Service
Rod Guice
Sequoia Parks Conservancy



WELCOME TO THE 13TH ANNUAL DARK SKY FESTIVAL



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Creature Feature - Bat Chat Giant Forest Museum 11:00 am - 11:20 am	Awe Walk with Dacher Keltner Meet at Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	From Galileo to Smart Telescopes Kings Canyon Visitor Center		Sun Zone! Featuring Solar Viewing by Sky-Watcher Grant Grove Village 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Our Fascination with the Night Sky Giant Forest Museum 2:00 pm - 2:20 pm	Rotational Dynamics, Milankovitch Cycles, and Planetary Glaciation Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Planets Giant Forest Museum	The Wonders of the Dark Skies: Astrophotography, Astronomy, Light Pollution Kings Canyon Visitor Center	
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Dark Sky Junior Ranger - Stories of the Stars Kings Canyon Visitor Center		
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Bright Eyes, Big Ears, and Bushy Tails Cedar Grove Visitor Center 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Bat Walk Meet at Kings Canyon Visitor Center 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	In the Sanctuary of Night Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	The Stars in Your Backyard Cedar Grove Visitor Center		
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Sequoia Stargazing Wuksachi Lodge - Meet in Lobby		
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Nightscape Program Bradley Meadow in Grant Grove Village		
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Kings Canyon Star Party Big Stump Picnic Area		

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

11:00 am - 11:20 am	Creature Feature - The Night Shift Giant Forest Museum				
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Dancing in the Moonlight Beetle Rock Education Center		Unveiling the Secrets of Our Universe From Its First Light Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room		Sun Zone! Featuring Solar Viewing by Riverside Astronomical Society Lodgepole Plaza 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Bat Chat Giant Forest Museum 2:00 pm - 2:20 pm	Discovering Planets and Measuring Stars Beetle Rock Education Center	What Can Asteroids Teach Us About Our Solar System? Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room		
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Exploding Stars, Then and Now Beetle Rock Education Center		How Empty is "Empty" Space? Wuksachi Lodge - Alta Room	Nocturnal Animals Lodgepole Plaza	
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Dark Sky Junior Ranger - Stories of the Stars Kings Canyon Visitor Center				
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Ask an Astrophysicist Panel, Presented by Caltech Astro Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater				
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Bat Walk Wuksachi Lodge - Meet Outside Lobby				
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Keynote Address The New Science of Awe Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater				
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Astronomy Over the Ages Cedar Grove Amphitheater 8:00 pm - 8:45 pm		Night Hike and Stargazing Program Panoramic Point		
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sequoia Star Party Wuksachi Lodge - Back Parking Lot				

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

11:00 am - 11:20 am	Creature Feature - Finding Creatures in the Stars Giant Forest Museum		
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Dark Sky Detectives Three Rivers Memorial Building		Sun Zone! Featuring Solar Viewing by Dennis Martin and SPC Three Rivers Memorial Building 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Explore and Photograph the Universe with a Smart Telescope Three Rivers Memorial Building		
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Starry to Starless Giant Forest Museum 2:00 pm - 2:20 pm	The Wonders of the Dark Skies: Astrophotography, Astronomy, Light Pollution Three Rivers Memorial Building	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Family-Friendly Bat Activity Giant Forest Museum	The New Science of Awe Three Rivers Memorial Building	Awe, Belonging, and Contemplation Three Rivers Memorial Building <i>Immediately Following The New Science of Awe</i>
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Bright Eyes, Big Ears, and Bushy Tails Cedar Grove Visitor Center	Bat Walk Meet at Foothills Visitor Center	The Flip of a Coin Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	The Stars in Your Backyard Cedar Grove Visitor Center		
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Foothills Star Party Lake Kaweah - Lemon Hill Parking Lot		

STAR PARTIES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Big Stump Star Party
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Big Stump Picnic Area
Kings Canyon National Park
Hosted by
Central Valley Astronomers
Park at Grant Grove Village and ride the park shuttle to Big Stump Picnic Area.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Sequoia Star Party
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Wuksachi Lodge - Back Parking Lot
Sequoia National Park
Hosted by
Kern Astronomical Society
Park at Lodgepole and ride the park shuttle to Wuksachi Lodge.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Lake Kaweah Star Party
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Lemon Hill Parking Lot
Lake Kaweah
Hosted by
Tulare Astronomical Association
Park in the lower parking lot of Lemon Hill.

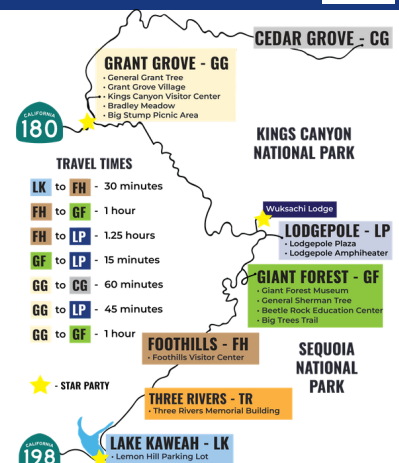
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

AWE
The New Science of Awe
Dacher Keltner
Saturday, September 12, 2026
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Lodgepole Campground Amphitheater

INFORMATION

Festival Central
Friday and Saturday | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Grant Grove Village and Lodgepole Plaza

DOWNLOAD THE FULL EVENT SCHEDULE HERE



SEQUOIA
KINGS CANYON
THREE RIVERS