



Proposed Observatory and Nature Center adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park

SKY'S THE LIMIT
*Observatory and
Nature Center*

**A Committee of the
Basin Wide Foundation**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE "EARTH HOUR" GLOBAL DARK SKY EVENT
SUPPORTED IN THE MORONGO BASIN**

Twentynine Palms, Ca - Sky's the Limit, the non-profit organization building the Observatory and Nature Center adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Park in Twentynine Palms, announces its support of the World Wildlife Fund's "Earth Hour," the world's first global dark-sky event. On March 29th at 8 pm local time, participants around the globe will turn out their lights for a full 60 minutes. For many people, this will be the first time they will see the same brilliant night sky their grandparents did.

The movement toward this first worldwide event began last year as San Francisco and Los Angeles both sponsored "Lights Out" events, and Sydney, Australia's "Earth Hour Sydney" reduced electrical usage by about 15%. The "Lights Out America" planners merged their event with "Earth Hour" resulting in the first global dark sky event.

Bill Souder, a local dark sky activist and board member for both Sky's The Limit and the California Desert Coalition (CDC), sees awareness of the event as critical to the Morongo Basin's future. "Our night skies are a valuable asset, for our residents and our visitors. The Sky's The Limit observatory needs dark skies to support our educational and environmental mission. The CDC, whose fight against the LADWP'S massive power lines is galvanizing our community, needs to demonstrate that conservation is possible, that our desert, and other locations, needn't be slaves to the environmental blight their power lines represent."

Individuals and businesses are encouraged to visit earthhour.org to sign up to participate. The site offers downloadable postcards, posters and complete, easy to use participation kits customized to fulfill the needs of every level of participation.

For more information about this event visit earthhour.org. To learn about Sky's The Limit's observatory, visit www.skysthelimit29.org. The California Desert Coalition is on the web at cadesertco.org. For background on Lights Out America, visit lightsoutamerica.org.

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