



ANNOUNCEMENT

Design Contest

Design a T-Shirt for Dark Skies of the Wet Mountain Valley!

In recent years, the inability to see the stars over most of the cities, towns, and communities in the US, has inspired locals to recognize that our dark skies are a precious natural resource worth preserving. The towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, Colorado have come together to protect a shared natural resource – their dark night skies. In the first effort of its kind, the towns worked side by side to ensure preservation of dark nights for the benefit of future residents. As a result of their efforts, the towns have earned Colorado's first International Dark Sky Community designation from the International Dark-Sky Association.

In an effort to continue promoting the preservation of our night sky, Dark Skies, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is sponsoring a design contest for art to be emblazoned on a T-shirt to commemorate the story and mission of the organization.

- **Deadline for submissions is Friday, July 22.**
- **Winning design will be announced July 29.**
- **The award winner and most contest designs will be featured in an exhibition and reception at the 3rd Street Gallery in Westcliffe, Colorado on August 6.**
- **Award winner will receive a \$50 prize and five T-shirts.**

There is no registration fee required, but we do ask that anyone planning to submit art for the contest notify us at the email address provided below.

T-Shirt Design Guidelines and Contest Rules

This contest is open to all artists working in any medium appropriate for a T-shirt design. Your design will be printed on the T-shirts used to promote the Dark Skies organization in a variety of ways and distribution channels.

1. The design for the T-Shirt should incorporate and reflect the theme of Dark Skies with a sub-theme of the mountain skies of the Wet Mountain Valley. Some key words and phrases in addition to dark skies include mountain skyline, peaks of the Sangre de Cristo, astronomy, constellations, Milky Way, observatory, shooting stars, crescent moon, planets, telescope, contrast between the dark skies and Earth. See the Dark Skies website for more inspiration; <http://www.wetmtdarkskies.org/>.

2. The design must not exceed 10"x 12".
3. The design can be one-to-four colors; however, please be aware we may print our t-shirts 4-color. One color will be a base coat of white and you can add up to 3 more colors. White can and should be considered part of the design.
4. No full-color process for these t-shirts.
5. Avoid shading and the use of gray scale since this design will be silkscreened on a T-shirt.
6. If you create your design in Photoshop or Illustrator or another professional design program, submit entries as medium resolution JPEG or pdf files.
7. Please be prepared to submit the original Illustrator or Adobe Photoshopfile in the case your artwork is chosen. Design must be easy to reproduce by silkscreen. We reserve the right to make adjustments to the winning design.
8. We anticipate that your design will appear on a dark colored T-shirt.
9. The design should incorporate the phrase "Colorado's First Dark Sky Community."
10. No more than two designs per entry.
11. The first place award winner will receive a \$50 cash prize and five T-shirts. Prizes will be awarded for second and third place.
12. Designs will be judged by the Dark Skies, Inc. Board and members of the Westcliffe art community based on the following criteria: relevance to contest theme; originality; creativity. One winner will be selected. All decisions of the judges are final.
13. All entrants agree that the artwork submitted to the contest will be displayed, along with the winning entry, at the 3Rd Street Gallery in Westcliffe, beginning with a reception on August 6, 2016.
14. Artwork must be submitted camera ready or in common graphic file, and becomes property of Dark Skies, Inc. a 501c3 nonprofit organization.
15. All artwork must be original and may not be a copy or duplicate of any published work. Any legal issue related to copyright infringement or the violation or infringement of any other intellectual, personal or property right is the sole and exclusive responsibility of contest entrant.
16. The winning entry becomes the property of Dark Skies, Inc, and used in any way the organization deems appropriate and at the sole discretion of Dark Skies, Inc.
17. Original artwork for the winner will not be returned. Other original art may be returned at the discretion of Dark Skies, Inc., but is not guaranteed, and the cost of returning art will be the responsibility of the artist.
18. Winner will be contacted by phone and by mail.
19. Winner will receive credit in the form of t-shirts
20. There is **no entry fee**, but participants must indicate the intention of submitting an entry by emailing rgemin@yahoo.com.
21. Dark Skies, Inc, accepts no liability for loss or damage of artwork entered in the contest.
22. By submitting you are agreeing to all of the criteria noted above. Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned rules renders the entry void.

All entries must include the following information on a separate sheet of paper:

Entrant's Name
Home Address
Home Telephone Number
Cell Telephone Number
Email address

All entries by emails should have the subject line "T-shirt Design Contest."

Please submit all entries by midnight Friday, July 22. All entries will receive an email confirming receipt of their submission. Please send submissions to:

Dark Skies, Inc.
P.O. Box 634
Westcliffe, CO 81252

For questions please contact Butch Gemin, rgemin@yahoo.com. Thank you.

About Dark Skies, Inc.

In 1998, a group of citizens concerned about the protection of this resource formed Dark Skies, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In the years since it was founded, Dark Skies has drawn attention to the threat of light pollution, offered solutions and engaged residents in protecting the area's night skies. The results equally benefit those who appreciate astronomy and those interested in promoting regional eco- and astro-tourism.