



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street", N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A44(2271)

**AUG 82001**

Robert and Matthew Wagner  
9005 N. Chatham Avenue  
Kansas City, MO 64154-1594

Dear Robert and Matthew:

Thank you for proposing and implementing your Dark Sky Camping Program. A "naturallandscape" is a place or environment characterized by the natural rhythm of the sun and moon cycles, clean air, and dark nights free from artificial light. The National Park Service's (NPS) mission is to share these naturallightsapes with the public and to protect them for future generations. In carrying out this mission, we help to do our part in support of individuals and organizations who fight to reduce light pollution.

The Boy Scouts of America offer an opportunity for young people to grow into responsible, well-rounded citizens by teaching traditions and values associated with using an outdoor-based program. You obviously believe, as I do, that every American should have the opportunity to experience a star-filled sky. Your Dark Sky Camping Program provides a simple blueprint for good lighting practices at camps. Your program helps to spread the word to those who have yet to learn this lesson.

Whether one is deep in a wilderness area in the Rocky Mountains, at the edge of a historic battlefield, or beside the stone ruins of a 1,000 year old civilization, we instinctively understand that a naturallightscape is crucial to making the experience meaningful. The NPS is committed to championing this resource for everybody, and building partnerships to save this part of our heritage. The work of dedicated Americans like yourselves, will help the NPS to preserve the natural resources of nations for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of future generations.

Sincerely,

J. Mary A. Bomar  
Director