

11-2010

Book Review: Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks

T. D. Oswalt

Florida Institute of Technology, oswaltt1@erau.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.erau.edu/publication>

 Part of the [Geology Commons](#), [Other Astrophysics and Astronomy Commons](#), [Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Commons](#), and the [The Sun and the Solar System Commons](#)

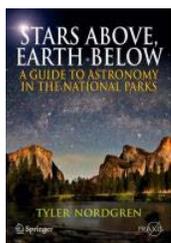
Scholarly Commons Citation

Oswalt, T. D. (2010). Book Review: Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks. *Choice Reviews*, 48(3). <https://doi.org/10.5860/CHOICE.48-1444>

Reprinted with permission from CHOICE www.choicereviews.org, copyright by the American Library Association.

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact commons@erau.edu.

Stars above, Earth below : a guide to astronomy in the national parks



Nordgren, Tyler. Springer/Praxis, 2010

444p, 9781441916488 \$29.95

LC Call Number: [QB44](#)

There are numerous field books on astronomy on the market, but this new book stands out. Astronomer Nordgren (Univ. of Redlands) spent 14 months traveling across the US, visiting 12 national parks and contributing to their nighttime public outreach programs. The result is this beautiful diary of the author's experiences and account of the unique aspects of the night sky at each site. The text nicely captures the astronomy, geology, history, and sociology of the parks. Most chapters are illustrated with beautiful color photos, many of them taken by Nordgren. Each also contains handy "See for Yourself" sections. Frequently, the book compares the geology of a site to what one would see on other planets in the solar system; hypothetical "tourist posters" for each planetary comparison are a creative touch. The book's major theme is that the national parks are some of the few remaining sites where one can still see a "primeval night sky" free from light pollution. The next time one visits a national park, he/she should remember that the night scenery is just as beautiful as the daytime scenery.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

Choice Issue: nov 2010 vol. 48 no. 3