

*This sample draft proclamation was created by the Hill Country Alliance with helpful input from the City of Dripping Springs. It is for adaptation and use by local jurisdictions across the Hill Country. Please feel free to modify it. Please let us know if you are using it so we can help spread the word. For assistance, or to simply let us know, email: cliff@hillcountryalliance.org.*

**PROCLAMATION  
OF [LOCAL JURISDICTION]  
PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2020 AS**

**“Hill Country Night Sky Month”**

- WHEREAS,** the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of [local jurisdiction] and are therefore worthy of celebration; and
- WHEREAS,** the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people; and
- WHEREAS,** the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore economic benefit to [local jurisdiction]; and
- WHEREAS,** preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of [local jurisdiction] is important to its residents; and
- WHEREAS,** “light pollution,” which is wasted light that performs no function or task and artificial light that goes where it is not supposed to go, is created by glare, light trespass, sky glow, and overlighting; and
- WHEREAS,** light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$2 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS,** the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe; and
- WHEREAS,** the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light pollution from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise; and
- WHEREAS,** solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and
- WHEREAS,** Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region’s night skies, as evidenced by the frequent educational activities conducted in our region and by the increasing number of places in our region recognized as International Dark-Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association, including: Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, South Llano State Park, the City of Dripping Springs, the Wimberley Valley, the City of Fredericksburg, the City of Horseshoe Bay, U Bar U Camp & Retreat Center, River Hills Neighborhood of Travis County, and Lost Creek Neighborhood of Travis County; and
- WHEREAS,** this regional effort and the preservation and celebration of our night skies is worthy of a month-long celebration.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the [local jurisdiction], Texas:**

- 1.** October 2020 shall hereafter be known as “Hill Country Night Sky Month” in [local jurisdiction], Texas.
- 2.** That the [local elected body] encourages citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in the [local jurisdiction’s] and the Hill Country region’s events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it.
- 3.** That the [local elected body] encourages citizens to learn about light pollution and why it matters, night sky friendly lighting, and lighting regulations, and to implement practices and lighting improvements that will reduce light pollution, thereby preserving our night skies.
- 4.** The [local clerk] is hereby instructed to post this Proclamation at [local public display location] for Public Display and enter this document into the permanent records of the [local jurisdiction].

