

Court Order # 38338
**PROCLAMATION
OF THE COUNTY OF KERR
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 Kerr County 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 Kerr County; and
- WHEREAS,** preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of Kerr County is important to its citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** “light pollution,” which is wasted energy that performs no function or task and artificial light that goes where it is not supposed to go, creates 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 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,** Kerr County Court Order 35950, Adopted on the 9th day of January, 2017, by the Commissioners Court supported efforts to preserve the Hill Country night skies; and
- WHEREAS,** this regional effort and the preservation and celebration of our night skies is now worthy of a month-long celebration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Commissioners Court of Kerr County, Texas:

1. October 2020 shall hereafter be known as “Hill Country Night Sky Month” in Kerr County, Texas.
2. That the Commissioners Court encourages citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in the Hill County region’s events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it.
3. That the Commissioners Court 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 County Clerk is hereby instructed to post this Proclamation at the Court House for Public Display and enter this document into the permanent records of the County.



The Honorable Rob Kelly
Kerr County Judge