

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE COUNTY OF KERR
PROCLAIMING APRIL 13-20, 2026
AS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK**

- 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 \$3 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS,** as Kerr County rebuilds after the devastating flooding on July 4, 2025, Dark Sky outdoor lighting should be encouraged to minimize light pollutions and preserve Hill Country night skies; 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,** 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; and
- WHEREAS,** On December 13, 2022, the Kerrville City Council passed Resolution No. 81-2022 stating its intent to become certified as a Dark Sky Community, and authorizing the adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-03 regulating outdoor lighting, on January 24, 2023 to preserve the Hill Country night skies; and
- WHEREAS,** Kerr County Court Order 35950, Adopted on January 9, 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 support and this proclamation.

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

1. That April 13-20, 2026 is hereby declared "International Dark Sky Week "in Kerr County, Texas.
2. That the Commissioners Court encourages citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in 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 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