



## Pledge *Texas Hill Country Night Sky Co-Op*



*Whereas*, the Texas Hill Country is widely acknowledged for its scenic beauty, diverse ecosystems, rich cultural heritage, and

*Whereas*, the starry nighttime sky above the Hill Country is a rich natural resource to be enjoyed by all Hill Country residents and visitors alike, and

*Whereas*, the Hill Country night skies, long enjoyed by our predecessors, are threatened by ever increasing numbers of outdoor lighting fixtures that shine up into the sky rather than exclusively downward, thus contributing to light pollution and a constant degradation of the nighttime skies, and

*Whereas*, without the cooperative efforts of all Hill Country residents, businesses, and governmental entities, the stars gracing the Hill Country's nighttime skies will grow ever dimmer, even to the point of disappearance,

I (we), \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby pledge that I will practice sound outdoor lighting management with the intention to eliminate light escaping over the horizon from outdoor lighting fixtures on my property and thus protect and preserve the treasured natural wonder that is the Hill Country's starry nighttime skies.

To affect this pledge:

- **I will not permit any of my outdoor lights to shine upwards or outwards into the nighttime sky.** This includes fixtures where the actual light source can be seen through or behind frosted or decorative glass. I will ensure that no light that shines outdoors on my property escapes above the horizon to add to sky glow.
- **I will not allow the source of my outdoor illumination to be seen from any other property.** I will modify my outdoor lighting so that anyone off my property will be unable to see the bulb or any bright reflector section in any of my lighting fixtures. I will consider whether or not bright lights from within structures on my property contribute substantively to light trespass and will fix them if they do. By thus eliminating light trespass, I will not only be saving the nighttime sky, I will also be eliminating a possible source of irritation for my neighbors, near and far, as well as eliminating a potential source of dangerous glare.
- **I will use outdoor lighting only when I absolutely have to.** Except for subtle decorative lighting, I will turn off all lights when there is no one there to use them. I will use timers and/or motion detectors on my outdoor lighting as much as possible.

- **I will use only the amount of light that is required to get the job done.** I will reduce the wattage of my outdoor lighting to a level that will provide adequate lighting for nighttime activities while eliminating over-lighting. Not only will I save money through reduced electrical usage, I will reduce the amount of glare on my property. By reducing the contrast between my lighted areas and the dark shadows, I will improve nighttime visibility and make my property safer.

By voluntarily pledging to be a friend of the Hill Country's nighttime sky, I am joining Hill Country residents, land owners, businesses, and governmental entities, large and small, in helping preserve this treasured natural resource.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hill Country Night Sky Co-Op Founding Members:**

Selah/Bamberger Ranch

The Preserve at Walnut Springs

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Learn more about Hill Country efforts to protect our starry skies at [www.hillcountrynightskies.org](http://www.hillcountrynightskies.org) and/or [www.hillcountrynightskycoop.org](http://www.hillcountrynightskycoop.org) , both hosted by the Hill Country Alliance [www.hillcountryalliance.org](http://www.hillcountryalliance.org).