



International
Dark Sky Week
2026

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside the local communities.; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world’s population, including many people in La Vernia, lives under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Vernia, as a growing community in Wilson County, values its rural character, natural landscapes, and quality of life, and recognizes that responsible outdoor lighting can preserve the visibility of the night sky while enhancing public safety and reducing energy costs; and

WHEREAS, South Central Texas is home to diverse nocturnal wildlife species that rely on natural darkness for navigation, feeding, and reproduction, and excessive artificial lighting can disrupt these vital ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

Now, Therefore, I, Martin Poore, Mayor of La Vernia, do hereby declare April 13-20, 2026 as

INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY WEEK in the City of La Vernia, Texas, and ask each resident to join me not only in observing and pondering upon this important week but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky as a resource.

Mayor, Martin Poore

City of La Vernia, Texas