

“Keeping Dark Skies Dark in the Texas Big Bend Region”



By: Stephen Hummel

Dark Skies Initiative Coordinator, UT Austin McDonald Observatory

Dark skies, free from the influence of light pollution, are increasingly difficult to find in the modern world. Today, even some of the most remote areas of the world once thought untouched from civilization's glow are beginning to be impacted by light pollution. In this presentation, Stephen Hummel will discuss efforts to protect the night sky around McDonald Observatory and the Big Bend region, one of the last remaining areas of dark skies in Texas. These efforts have culminated in the creation of the Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve, currently the largest area in the world certified by DarkSky International.

Speaker: Stephen Hummel is the Dark Skies Initiative Coordinator for the McDonald Observatory, a remote research campus of the University of Texas at Austin. His work has focused on preserving dark skies in the Big Bend and Permian Basin regions of Texas through responsible outdoor lighting practices. In his spare time, he is an award winning astrophotographer with a specialty in rare electrical phenomena above nighttime thunderstorms.

This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. To attend, you must register for the meeting. You can do so using the link below. You will receive an email with the details of the meeting and a link that will allow you to join in.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tvcDI43yRg-3Chug6RC-Sg>

You only need to register once!

Join us Friday, April 4th, 2025, at 7:00 pm CDT.

See you then!