



City of Santa Fe, Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Bando Oficial de la Villa Real de Santa Fé de San Francisco de Asis Nuevo México

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, fostering a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside local communities; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has well-documented economic and environmental consequences, resulting in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many residents of Santa Fe, 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 approximately \$3 billion per year in wasted energy in the United States, and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, astronomy—which is hindered and endangered by excessive light pollution—represents a statewide capital investment of more than \$1.3 billion and an annual economic return of over \$25 million, while supporting more than 150,000 jobs through the aerospace and defense sector; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe Stargazers is a group of Santa Fe area residents who share a passion for observing the day and night sky—whether by the naked eye, binoculars, or telescope—and who meet regularly to observe as a group, share their passion with the public, increase knowledge and appreciation of astronomy, and advocate for dark skies so that all may enjoy the beauty of the heavens; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is internationally recognized for its dark sky tourism, attracting visitors to its nine DarkSky International—certified International Dark Sky Places; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act was enacted to regulate outdoor night lighting fixtures, preserve and enhance the state's dark skies, promote safety, conserve energy, and protect the environment for astronomy; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, along with its New Mexico chapter, New Mexico DarkSky, recognizes International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide education and resources, and encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies through responsible outdoor lighting.

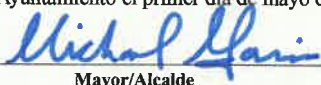
NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL J. GARCIA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO,
DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 13-20, AS:

“INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”



Done at City Hall, this 1st day of May 2026
Promulgado en el Ayuntamiento el primer día de mayo del año 2026.

Witness my hand:


Mayor/Alcalde