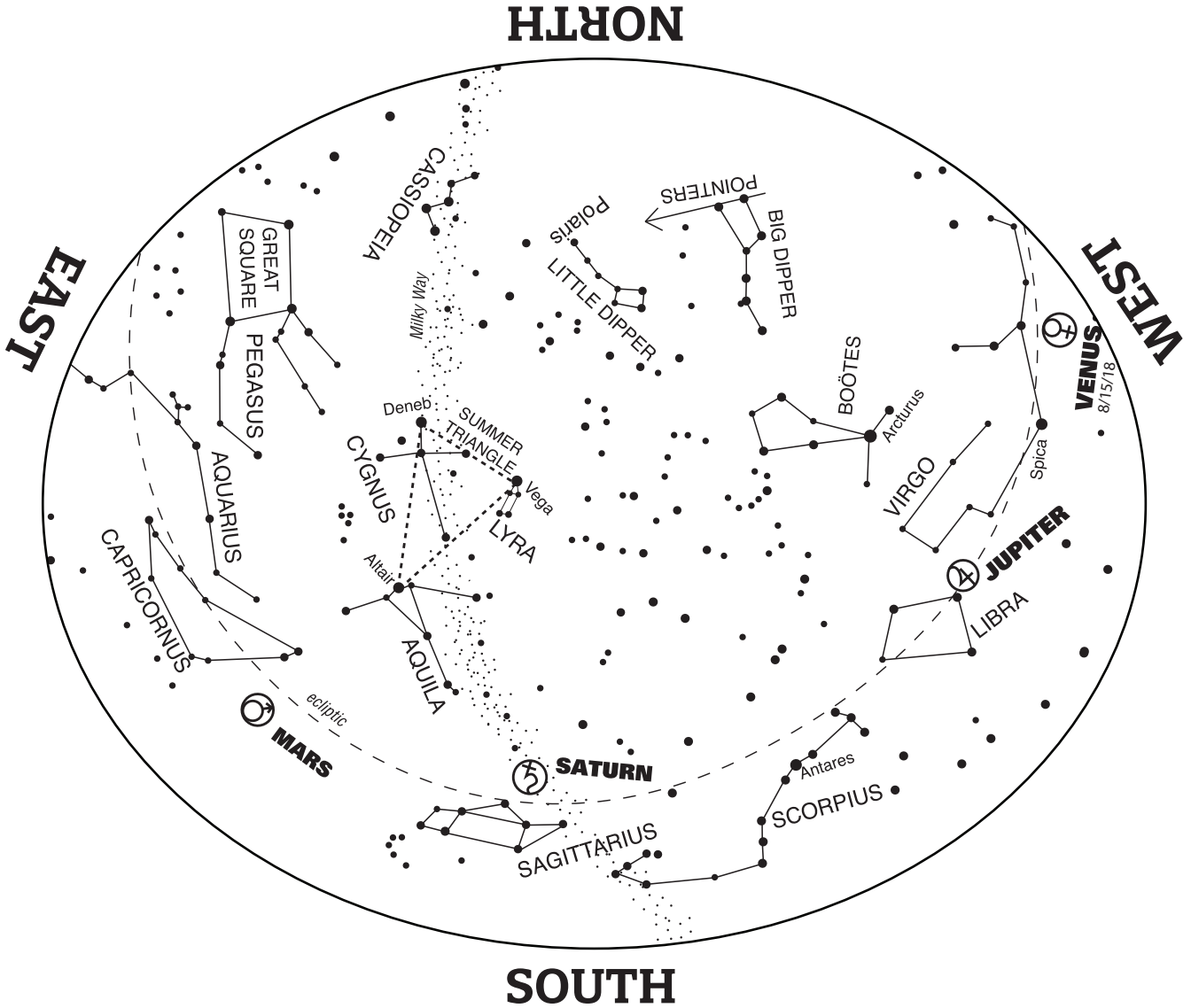


Starmap

JULY/AUGUST 2018



601 Light Street • Baltimore's Inner Harbor
410.685.5225 • www.marylandsciencecenter.org



TO USE MAP:

Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:
11:30pm Mid-July EDT
9:30pm Mid-August EDT

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness. The lower the number, the brighter the star

- 1st or brighter magnitude star
- 2nd magnitude star
- 3rd magnitude star
- 4th or fainter magnitude star

ECLIPTIC:

The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.

Starmap

JULY/AUGUST 2018

IN THE JULY/AUGUST SKY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p> July 6
Last Quarter Moon
Earth at aphelion</p> <p>July 9
Venus near Regulus</p> <p> July 12
New Moon
Mercury at greatest elongation</p> <p>July 14
Moon near Mercury</p> <p>July 15
Moon near Venus and Regulus</p> <p> July 19
First Quarter Moon</p> <p> July 20
Moon near Jupiter</p> <p>July 24
Moon near Saturn</p> <p> July 27
Mars Opposition
(See <i>Celestial Highlight</i>)</p> <p> Full Moon</p> <p> = Observatory events</p> | <p> August 4
Last Quarter Moon</p> <p>August 8
Mercury in conjunction with Sun</p> <p> August 11
New Moon</p> <p>August 12
Annual Perseid meteor shower
(See <i>Celestial Highlight</i>)</p> <p>August 14
Moon near Venus</p> <p> August 17
First Quarter Moon near Jupiter</p> <p> Venus greatest elongation
(See <i>Celestial Highlights</i>)</p> <p>August 20
Moon near Saturn</p> <p>August 23
Moon near Mars</p> <p> August 26
Full Moon</p> |
|---|---|

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Planet Oppositions and Conjunctions with Sun - The astronomical term opposition describes when an object appears opposite the Sun in the sky as seen from Earth. Planets at opposition are visible all night. Mars is in opposition on July 27. In contrast, conjunction means that two objects appear in the same place in the sky as seen from Earth. Mercury is in conjunction with the Sun on August 8. Planets in conjunction with the Sun are not visible.

Planet Elongations, Mercury on July 12, Venus on August 17 - The interior planets Mercury and Venus don't have oppositions from the Sun but rather they have what is called an elongation. This means they are at their farthest distance from the Sun in the sky from our perspective on Earth making it the best time to look for these two planets. Both planets are found in the early evening sky after sunset, if you look toward the west the bright non-twinkling dots in the sky are Venus and Mercury, with Venus being the brightest.

Planet Parties, July 27 and August 17 - This summer all five visible planets, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars will be in the sky. For July 27 the observations start with focusing on planets Venus and Mercury followed by Jupiter, Saturn and then Mars near the Moon. For the August 17 observatory night the Moon will be next to Jupiter. That evening Venus, Saturn and Mars will also be in the sky. Join MSC staff as we party with the planets, weather permitting.

Perseids Meteor Shower peaks August 12 - One of the best meteor showers of the year, the Perseids peak with about 90 meteors per hour. While the peak occurs on August 12, some meteors may be visible July 17 - August 24. Look to the north eastern sky after dark to watch for Perseid meteors.

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

The Parker Solar Probe launches August 4 - Parker Solar Probe will fly through the Sun's outer atmosphere numerous times over several years. The data gathered will help forecast major solar events that impact life on Earth. For more information visit: <http://parkersolarprobe.jhuapl.edu/index.php>

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at <https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/>

CROSBY RAMSEY MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY INFO 410-545-2999

Free public observing nights are held Fridays 7:00-10:30pm. Please call after 5:00pm on Friday for observing conditions.

SPECIAL FOCUS EVENTS - weather permitting

Fri, July 27, 2018 - Planet Party - Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars

Fri, August 17, 2018 - Planet Party - Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars



MERCURY

When:
After Sunset, early July
Before Sunrise, after August 15

Where:
Low in west, July
Low in east, August

Constellation:
Cancer, Leo, Cancer



VENUS

When:
Evening sky

Where:
Low in west

Constellation:
Leo, Virgo



MARS

When:
All night

Where:
Southeast to South

Constellation:
Capricornus, Sagittarius



JUPITER

When:
Evening sky

Where:
Southwest

Constellation:
Libra



SATURN

When:
Evening sky

Where:
Southeast to southwest

Constellation:
Sagittarius