

CAROLINA SKIES OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018

Hold the star chart over your head. Find north, and align your chart accordingly. You may need a flashlight, but be sure not to ruin your night vision with a bright bulb. Use a red light, or put a brown paper bag over your flashlight for a muted glow.

Find your way around the fall sky by searching for geometric shapes: the Summer Triangle setting in the west; the Great Square of Pegasus overhead; the zigzag of Cassiopeia pointing to the North Star, Polaris; and the line of the belt in Orion the Hunter. The V-shaped “back legs” of Pegasus are really the stars of Princess Andromeda and, in a dark sky, can guide you to the Andromeda Galaxy, the Milky Way’s neighbor, which appears as a dim fuzzy oval 2.5 million light years from Earth.

Jupiter shines brightly, low in the west, right after sunset. As you work your way slightly eastward, the ringed planet **Saturn** – a pale yellowish luminary – is visible a bit higher and to the left in the early evening sky. Saturn, in turn, is followed by reddish **Mars**. All three planets are within an imaginary line that arcs east-west across the southern evening sky. Of the three, Jupiter – only visible through early November – sets within a couple of hours or less of sunset. The other two planets follow suit as the night progresses. Brilliant **Venus** climbs out of predawn twilight in the east starting in early November and rises higher as the month progresses. **Mercury** isn't easily seen now.

Our Star Families series for families with children ages 7-12 continues with **Fall Skies** (Saturday, Oct. 20, 3:30 p.m.), **Native American Sky Stories** (Saturday, Nov. 10, 3:30 p.m.), and **The Milky Way** (Saturday, Dec. 1, 3:30 p.m.). Join us for **Storytelling Under the Stars** (Sunday, Nov. 18, 4:30 p.m.).

Skywatching Sessions:

If you liked your *Carolina Skies* planetarium experience, consider joining us to view the real sky! For information on Morehead's free monthly public skywatching sessions please check our web page:

www.moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching

Admission to skywatching is free, telescopes are active, and constellation tours are provided. Sessions will be cancelled if weather is poor. For directions to the skywatching sites, cancellation updates, and information on astronomy and skywatching classes for children and adults, call **919-962-1236** or visit www.moreheadplanetarium.org.

This chart is useful within one hour of the listed time.

early-October midnight EDT
late-October 11 p.m. EDT
mid-November 9 p.m. EDT

