

# CAROLINA SKIES JUNE - JULY 2021

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.

Moving into summer, new star patterns enter our evening sky. Note the Summer Triangle – not a constellation, but an asterism, or informal grouping, of the stars Deneb, Vega, and Altair, the brightest in each of their respective constellations.

From a dark location, you might notice the Milky Way, the “city” of stars to which all stars visible in our sky belong. The center of the Milky Way resides in the direction of the teapot-shaped constellation of Sagittarius the Archer.

Brilliant **Venus** dominates the early evening sky. Look for it low in the west just after sunset. It is accompanied by fainter, reddish **Mars**, seen above and to Venus' left in June and early July as the two planets draw closer together night after night. Venus passes close by Mars on July 13-14, and then the two luminaries swap positions. As July wanes, Mars descends into evening's twilight glow. Meanwhile ringed, yellowish **Saturn** rises in the east in later evening, followed about an hour later by bright **Jupiter**. Quick, elusive **Mercury** emerges from the solar glare by July, appearing low in the east shortly before sunrise.

For an online hub of resources for you to enjoy at home, check out **Morehead At Home** - <https://moreheadplanetarium.org/explore/morehead-at-home/>

## Skywatching Sessions:

After it's safe to gather in person again, we'll be back with our free public monthly skywatching sessions. <http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>

