

# CAROLINA SKIES JUNE - JULY 2020

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.

**Mercury** shines within western evening twilight through mid-June. After the first week, it begins sinking closer to the horizon each evening, and by the 20th becomes lost in the solar glare. In late evenings during June, bright **Jupiter** and ringed **Saturn** float close together in the southeast. By July, the pair can be spotted not long after sunset. They trek westward across the sky throughout the night – joined to their east by reddish **Mars** – and remain visible until shortly before sunrise. Brilliant **Venus** appears within eastern pre-dawn twilight starting in mid-June, and rises higher in the sky into July. By mid-July, it is joined by Mercury.

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>

