

CAROLINA SKIES OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 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.

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.

Venus shines brilliantly low in the southwest during evening twilight. Don't wait too late, though – it could set before you spot it.

Jupiter and ringed **Saturn** hover midway up in the south as darkness falls, and then trek westward as evening progresses. Jupiter is the brighter of the two planets and appears a bit to the left of yellowish Saturn. Eventually, the duo set in the west – during the early morning hours in October, and in the later evening hours of November. **Mercury** briefly appears in the east just before sunrise during late October and early November. The elusive planet remains visible for only a couple of weeks. **Mars** is too close the Sun's glare to be seen now.

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:

In-person skywatching is back! Check our Skywatching webpage for upcoming events:

<http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>

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

October midnight EDT

November 9 p.m. EST

