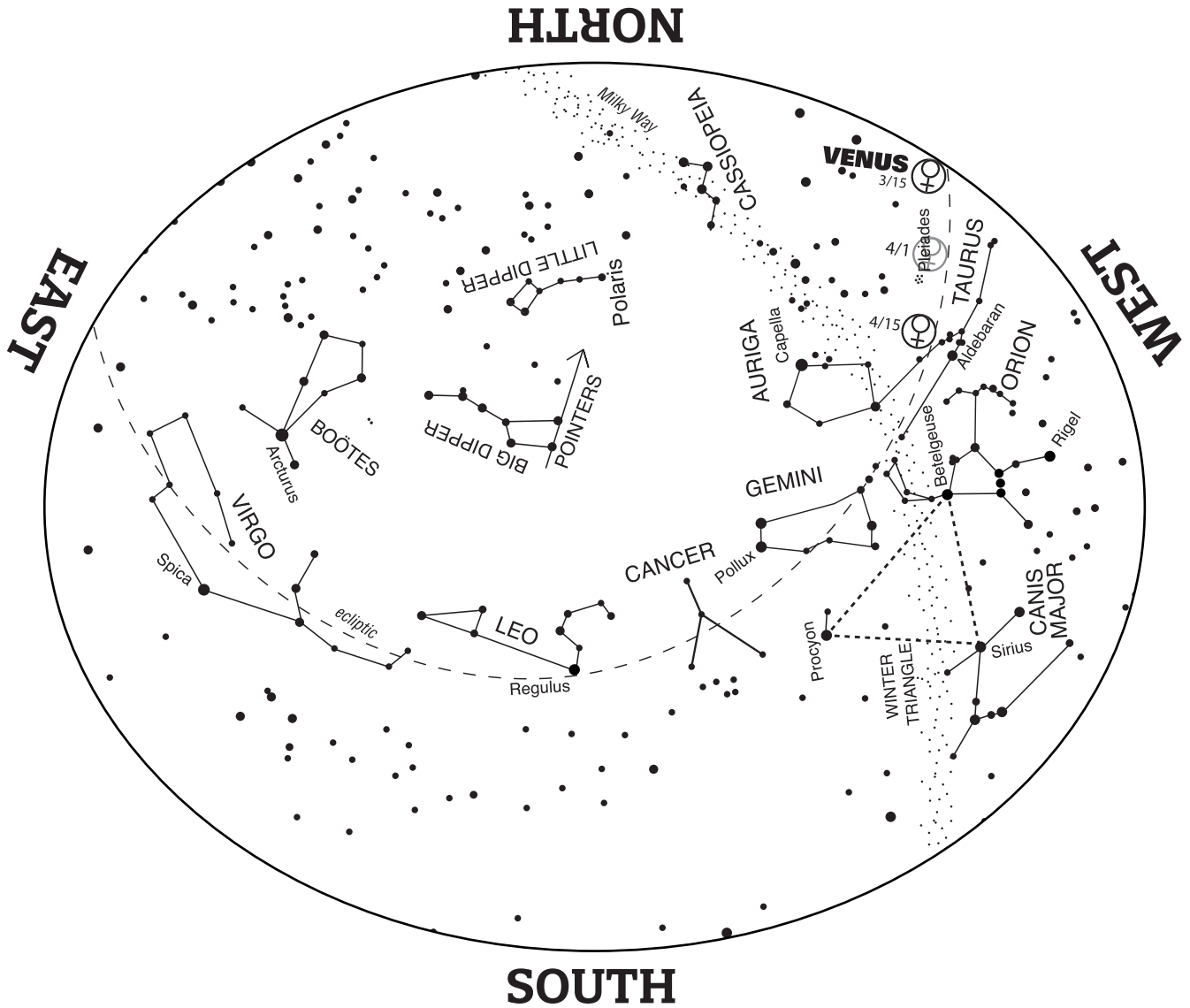


Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2020



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:

- 10:30pm Mid-March EDT
- 8:30pm Mid-April 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

MARCH/APRIL 2020

IN THE MARCH/APRIL SKY

- ☾ **Mar 2**
First quarter Moon
- Mar 7**
Moon near Regulus
- Mar 8**
Daylight Saving Time begins
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- ☉ **Mar 9**
Full Moon
- ☾ **Mar 16**
Last quarter Moon
- Mar 18**
Moon below Jupiter and
Mars (morning)
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Mar 19**
Moon near Saturn (morning)
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
Vernal Equinox
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Mar 20**
Mars near Jupiter (morning)
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Mar 21**
Moon near Mercury (morning)
- Mar 23**
Mercury at greatest
elongation (morning)
- ☉ **Mar 24**
New Moon
Venus at greatest elongation
- Mar 28**
Moon near Venus
- Mar 29**
Moon near Aldebaran
- Mar 3**
Mars near Saturn (morning)
- ☾ **Apr 1**
First Quarter Moon
- 🔭 **Apr 3**
Venus among the stars
of the Pleiades cluster
(See *Celestial Highlights*)
- Apr 4**
Moon near Regulus
- ☉ **Apr 7**
Full Moon
- ☾ **Apr 14**
Last quarter Moon
- Apr 15**
Moon below Jupiter and
Saturn (morning)
- Apr 16**
Moon near Mars
(morning)
- ☉ **Apr 22**
New Moon
- Apr 25**
Moon near Aldebaran
- Apr 26**
Moon near Venus
Uranus in conjunction
with Sun
- ☾ **Apr 30**
First Quarter Moon

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Daylight Saving Time begins, Sunday, March 8, 2:00 am -

Remember to turn your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

Jupiter, Saturn and Mars visible for March mornings - The very bright planet Jupiter will be your guide to two other planets during March. Jupiter stands out in the Southeast dawn sky. On March 4, Mars can be found to the upper right of Jupiter; Saturn is the same distance to the lower left of Jupiter. Over the next two weeks, Mars will be getting closer to Jupiter and then to Saturn. The crescent Moon will pass below both Mars and Jupiter on March 18 and below Saturn the next morning. Mars will be closest to Jupiter on March 20 and continue on toward Saturn. Mars will be closest to Saturn the morning of March 31. Note that these three planets are at much different distances from the Earth. Jupiter is almost four times farther from us than Mars, and Saturn is almost two times farther from us than Jupiter.

Brilliant Venus with the Pleiades star cluster, Friday, April 3 -

Join MSC staff as the Observatory features Venus on this special edition of our weekly "Friday Night Stargazing." After it gets dark, the stars of the Pleiades cluster are seen surrounding Venus (weather permitting).

See Venus near the Pleiades on your own a few days before and after April 3. Look for them after dark with your eyes alone, although binoculars will help.

Vernal Equinox, Thursday, March 19, 11:50 pm - The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth! If you happen to be standing at the Earth's equator at noon during the Equinox, you will see the sun pass directly overhead.

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 Friday evenings from 5:30-9:00 pm through March 6, weather permitting. Starting on March 13, the Observatory is open Friday evenings from 7:00-10:30 pm. Please call after 5:00 pm on Friday for observing conditions.



MERCURY

When:
Before sunrise, late March
Not visible, April

Where:
Very low in East, March

Constellation:
Aquarius, Pisces, Aries



VENUS

When:
After sunset

Where:
West

Constellation:
Pisces, Aries, Taurus



MARS

When:
Morning sky

Where:
Southeast

Constellation:
Sagittarius, Capricornus



JUPITER

When:
Before sunrise

Where:
Southeast

Constellation:
Sagittarius



SATURN

When:
Before sunrise

Where:
Southeast

Constellation:
Sagittarius, Capricornus