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 of 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:
8:30pm Mid-Jan. EST
6:30pm Mid-Feb. EST

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.
**IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY**

**Jan 2**  
Moon near Venus

**Jan 3**  
Moon near Mars  
Quadrantid meteors peak  
(See Celestial Highlights)

**Jan 4**  
Earth at Perihelion  
(See Celestial Highlights)

**Jan 5**  
First quarter Moon

**Jan 9**  
Moon near Aldebaran

**Jan 12**  
Full Moon  
Venus at greatest elongation  
(See Celestial Highlights)

**Jan 13**  
Observe Venus Night

**Jan 15**  
Moon near Regulus

**Jan 19**  
Last Quarter Moon near Jupiter  
Mercury at greatest elongation  
(See Celestial Highlights)

**Jan 24**  
Moon near Saturn

**Jan 25**  
Moon near Mercury

**Jan 27**  
New Moon

**Jan 31**  
Moon near Mars and Venus  
(See Celestial Highlights)

**Feb 3**  
First quarter Moon

**Feb 5**  
Moon near Aldebaran

**Feb 9**  
Moon near Beehive Cluster

**Feb 10**  
Full Moon near Regulus  
Observe Venus Night

**Feb 15**  
Moon near Jupiter

**Feb 18**  
Last quarter Moon

**Feb 20**  
Moon near Saturn

**Feb 26**  
New Moon

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**CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Quadrantid meteors peak January 3** - with up to 120 meteors per hour. The crescent Moon sets in early evening, lending towards an excellent meteor shower. A meteor (bit of debris in the solar system) burns up passing through Earth’s atmosphere as a quick flash or streak of light. A meteor shower is many meteors named for the constellation they radiate from. Look for the Quadrantids (named after Quadrans Muralis, a constellation not on modern star maps) near the Big Dipper from late night January 3 into January 4.

**Earth at Perihelion, January 4** - Perihelion is a planet’s closest point to the Sun in its annual elliptical orbit. This year, Earth reaches perihelion on January 4, with a distance of 91,404,322 miles making it closer to the Sun than the average distance of 93,000,000 miles. Despite the variable distance between the Earth and the Sun, changing temperatures and seasons are caused by the tilt of the Earth.

**Greatest elongations, Venus on January 12, Mercury on January 19** - The best time to view the inner planets Venus and Mercury, is when they are at their highest above the horizon in the sky. Even when these planets are at their highest, they are still low in the sky. Look for Venus low in the western sky just after sunset on January 12 and Mercury low in the eastern sky before sunrise on January 19.

**Observatory special - Observe Venus Night, January 13 and February 10** - Join Maryland Science Center staff for a special edition of our weekly “Friday Night Stargazing” to enjoy a view of the brilliant planet Venus. Through our telescope you can see that Venus is a planet that goes through phases (it’s not always a Full phase). (Observatory is open weather permitting, see below for details.)

**Mars and Venus with the Moon, January 31** - The Moon forms a triangle with Mars and Venus on January 31. Venus is the brighter of the two planets. Notice Mars’ subtle pinkish color.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at http://www.mdsci.org/pdf/Planetarium/STARMAP.pdf

**CROSBY RAMSEY MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY**

**INFO 410-545-2999**

Free public observing nights are held Friday evenings, weather permitting. Observatory hours are 5:30-9:00 p.m. The Observatory is also open Saturdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m., included in Maryland Science Center admission. Please call after 5:00 p.m. on Friday or after 12 noon on Saturday for observing conditions.

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**MERCURY**  
*When:* Before sunrise  
*Where:* Low in southeast  
*Constellation:* Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius

**VENUS**  
*When:* After sunset  
*Where:* Low in southwest  
*Constellation:* Aquarius, Pisces

**MARS**  
*When:* Evening sky  
*Where:* Southwest  
*Constellation:* Aquarius, Pisces

**JUPITER**  
*When:* Before sunrise  
*Where:* East  
*Constellation:* Virgo

**SATURN**  
*When:* Before sunrise  
*Where:* East  
*Constellation:* Ophiuchus, Sagittarius