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:
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**
- Earth at Perihelion

**Jan. 3**
- Last Quarter Moon
- Quadrantid meteors peak
  *(See Celestial Highlights)*

**Jan. 7**
- Mercury at its highest point
  *(morning)*

**Jan. 8**
- Moon near Venus
  *(See Celestial Highlights)*

**Jan. 11**
- New Moon

**Jan. 13**
- Moon near Saturn
  *(See Celestial Highlights)*

**Jan. 17**
- First Quarter Moon

**Jan. 18**
- Moon near Jupiter

**Jan. 19**
- Ursae Minorid meteor shower
  *(See Celestial Highlights)*

**Jan. 20**
- Moon near Pleiades

**Jan. 24**
- Moon near Pollux

**Jan. 25**
- Full Moon

**Jan. 27**
- Moon near Regulus

**Feb. 1**
- Moon near Spica

**Feb. 2**
- Last Quarter Moon

**Feb. 9**
- New Moon

**Feb. 10**
- Moon near Saturn

**Feb. 14/15**
- Moon near Jupiter
  *(See Celestial Highlights)*

**Feb. 16**
- First Quarter Moon near Pleiades

**Feb. 20**
- Moon near Pollux

**Feb. 22**
- Venus near Mars
  *(morning)*
  *(See Celestial Highlights)*

**Feb. 23**
- Moon near Regulus

**Feb. 24**
- Full Moon

**Feb. 27/28**
- Moon near Spica

**CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**QUADRANTID METEORS PEAK JANUARY 4 AFTER SUNSET**

- Meteoroids are bits of debris from comets that burn up passing through Earth’s atmosphere creating a quick flash or streak of light called a “meteor” or “shooting star.” A meteor shower is a high frequency of meteors that seem to come from one area of the sky. Meteor showers are usually named for the constellation that they radiate from, but in the case of the Quadrants (named after Quadrans Muralis), the constellation is no longer used on modern star maps. Look for Quadrantid meteors on the night of January 4. Around 9pm look low in the horizon North-Northwest to see the shower. To find the shower later in the night find the Big and Little Dipper form a line drawing through Polaris and Pherekad (the star at the tip of the Little Dipper opposite of Polaris) follow this line until you are below the handle of the Big Dipper. The shower will start December 12 and last until January 12.

**MOON AND PLANET PAIRINGS**

- Just before sunrise on January 8 the Moon and Venus will rise in the Southeast and Venus will be left of the Moon. Just after sunset on January 13 Saturn will be directly above the Moon. Jupiter will be the brightest object next to the Moon on January 18 until it sets at midnight. Just after sunset on February 15 Jupiter will be just below the Moon. Just before sunrise on February 18, Mars will be below Venus look just above the horizon South-Southeast.

**URSAE MINORID METEOR SHOWER PEAK JANUARY 19**

- This shower will start January 15 and last until January 25. Look at Polaris and follow the Little Dipper in the sky to find the shower on the opposite side of the Dipper. The shower is at a circumpolar position and will not set so it will be visible throughout the night.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/

**THE OBSERVATORY AT THE MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER INFO**

Safe solar viewing is offered Saturdays from 1:00pm-4:00pm, weather permitting (admission included with Science Center admission).

**DAVIS PLANETARIUM**

**Starmap**
**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024**

**MERCURY**
- When: Before sunrise, January
- Not visible, February
- Where: Low in Southeast, January
- Not visible, February
- Constellation: Ophiuchus, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius

**VENUS**
- When: Before Sunrise
- Where: Low in Southeast
- Constellation: Scorpius, Ophiuchus, Sagittarius, Capricornus

**MARS**
- When: Not Visible, January
- Before Sunrise, after February 15
- Where: Low in Southeast
- Constellation: Sagittarius, Capricornus

**JUPITER**
- When: Evening sky
- Where: Southwest to West
- Constellation: Aries

**SATURN**
- When: Just After Sunset, January
- Not Visible, February
- Where: West-Southwest, January
- Not visible, February
- Constellation: Aquarius