



## Sky Events Calendar • May, June, & July 2019

All times listed are in Central Standard Time or Central Daylight Time, according to the time in effect on that date.

For more information, call the Museum at 337-291-5544 and ask to speak with someone in the planetarium. Some of these objects and events can be seen during Planetarium star parties — check the Museum web site to see a list of star parties and other events hosted by the Planetarium. Reminders of some of these events will appear on the Lafayette Science Museum Facebook page as the dates approach.

The Internet and media wildly over-hype non-events like “super moons” and “blue moons” and even some actual events like meteor showers. We’ll give you more realistic information!

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**May 2:** The brilliant starlike object *near the moon* just before dawn will be *Venus*.

**May 6:** The *Eta Aquariid meteor shower* will peak shortly after dawn this morning, with best viewing in a brief period from about 4 to 5 a.m. The meteors will appear to come from the southeastern sky. Far rural observers may see about 10 per hour, and the closer you are to the lights of a city, the fewer will be seen (and virtually none inside cities). Although not the best major shower of the year, the meteors tend to be longer and faster than average.

**May 7:** About 8:30 p.m. the *moon will occult the medium bright star Zeta Tauri*, hiding it from view until it reappears about 9:12 p.m. as the moon moves around Earth. The disappearance of a star behind the unlighted portion of the moon, as happens here, is said to be the most instantaneous thing the human eye can see. This event should be visible in binoculars, but much easier to see in a telescope. The moderately bright starlike object to the right of the moon during all this will be *Mars*.

**May 18/19:** On both these nights, *Mars* will be in the same low power telescope view with the star cluster *Messier 35*, a very pretty view although the nearly full moon will reduce the number of stars that are visible. Look just as the sky is getting dark because this will be low in the western sky and will set very early. From one night to the next, you will be able to see how much Mars moves as it orbits the sun.

**May 20:** The *moon* will rise tonight by 10 p.m. The very bright starlike object near it will be *Jupiter*.

**May 22 & 23:** The bright starlike object *near the moon* from midnight to dawn will be *Saturn*.

**June 1:** The brilliant starlike object to the left of the *moon* in morning twilight will be *Venus*.

**June 4:** If you can find the thin *crescent moon* low in the west during evening twilight, look for *Mercury* to its right and *Mars* above it. Binoculars may help.

**June 6:** The *crescent moon and the Beehive Star Cluster* will be in the same binocular view. Look for them in the west just as the sky is getting completely dark.

**June 10:** *Mercury and Mars* will be in the same binocular view in the west nightly throughout the month. They will be seen initially in late twilight but by about the end of the month they will be lost in bright twilight as they orbit the sun.

**June 16:** The very bright starlike object *near the moon* tonight will be *Jupiter*.

**June 18:** The *moon* will rise by 9 p.m. tonight and the bright starlike object visible near it will be *Saturn*. Look at them in binoculars and carefully note their positions compared to each other and any stars you see in the view. Check again as little as one or two hours later and you may be able to notice a slight change in the moon’s position as it orbits Earth!

**June 21:** The *June solstice* will be at 10:54 a.m., officially beginning Summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

**June 30:** The *moon* will rise about 4:30 a.m., appearing in front of the *Hyades star cluster*. In the hour between moonrise and the sky getting too bright to see the stars, binocular and telescope observers should be able to see the moon's position change as it orbits Earth.

**June 25:** For a challenge, use wide-field binoculars to look at the *moon* before dawn. Place the moon in the lower right part of your view. The planet *Uranus* will be near the edge of the view opposite the moon. Although faint, Uranus will be the brightest starlike object in that area and may show a very subtle greenish hue.

**July 4:** Earth will reach *aphelion* at 5:11 p.m., its farthest point from the sun for this year.

**July 5:** The bright star *near the moon* tonight will be *Regulus*, in Leo the Lion.

**July 13:** The very bright starlike object *near the moon* tonight will be *Jupiter*.

**July 15:** The bright starlike object *near the moon* tonight will be *Saturn*. Telescope observers should be able to see Saturn's rings.

**July 29:** Use binoculars to look at the *moon* between 5:00 and 5:30 a.m. Can you see the *Messier 35* star cluster to the left of the moon? That star cluster is about 2800 light years distant.