

Saturday
**May
27**

8:30 pm – Midnight

Galaxies and Globular Clusters

The spring sky is dominated by the Big Dipper, Leo, the bright orange star Arcturus, and the planet Jupiter. Some of the best examples of galaxies and globular clusters are visible this time of year. The Black-eye and Whirlpool galaxies are bright spirals with uneven texture, and the globular clusters Omega Centauri and M13 in Hercules shine with thousands of stars.

Prominent constellations:

Leo (the Lion)
Ursa Major (the Great Bear)
Virgo (the Maiden)
Corvus (the Crow)
Boötes (the Herdsman)
Libra (the Scales)

Saturday
**Jun
17**

8:45 pm – Midnight

Saturn at Opposition

Spectacular Saturn and its rings will be the highlight of the evening along with Jupiter, and the summer Milky Way. The rings of Saturn resemble a photograph through a telescope. We will also observe the Great Hercules Cluster, Whirlpool Galaxy, Wild Duck Cluster and the Ring Nebula. The bright glow of our own Milky Way galaxy will be rising in the southeast after sunset.

Prominent constellations:

Ursa Major (the Great Bear)
Boötes (the Herdsman)
Scorpius (the Scorpion)
Hercules (the Strong Man)
Lyra (the Harp)
Cygnus (the Swan)

Saturday
**Jun
24**

8:45 pm – Midnight

Jupiter, Saturn and the Milky Way

The summer Milky Way is rising on the southeastern horizon right after sunset. The Milky Way at this time of year is an easy target for photographers. We will tour a fine selection of clusters and nebulae in Scorpius and Sagittarius, including the Lagoon Nebula, Omega Nebula, Wild Duck Cluster, and globular cluster M5. We will also observe two of the most impressive planets: Jupiter, and Saturn.

Prominent constellations:

Scorpius (the Scorpion)
Boötes (the Herdsman)
Aquila (the Eagle)
Sagittarius (the Archer)
Cygnus (the Swan)
Lyra (the Harp)

Saturday
**Jul
1**

8:45 pm – Midnight

First Quarter Moon, Jupiter and Saturn

First Quarter Moon, Jupiter and Saturn

A First Quarter crescent Moon is next to Jupiter in the southwest after sunset. Antares and Saturn highlight the region of sky between Sagittarius and Scorpius. Observe in detail the dramatic craters and mountains on the lunar surface, the rings of Saturn, and Jupiter with its moons. This fine trio of objects are among finest sights in the sky. Also visible is the orange and blue double star, Albireo.

Prominent constellations:

Scorpius (the Scorpion)
Ophiuchus (the Serpent Bearer)
Aquila (the Eagle)
Sagittarius (the Archer)
Cygnus (the Swan)
Lyra (the Harp)



FREE Public Events

Sky's The Limit Observatory and Nature Center invites guests to enjoy these free nighttime events. Come and go when you wish. The Observatory is just outside the main (North) entrance to Joshua Tree National Park at 9697 Utah Trail, Twentynine Palms. Docents are on campus from 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays for free tours and solar viewing, but **the campus is always open for visitors to walk the Nature Trail, explore the scale model of our Solar System, and enjoy the Meditation Garden and the steel sculptures of Simi Dabah.**

A variety of types and sizes of telescopes are set up for these viewing events, and guests are invited to bring their own binoculars and scopes as well. Come around sunset to visit other campus educational attractions before the cosmic tour begins at dark.

Dress for unpredictable desert weather and bring snacks, water bottles, chairs, and a red flashlight (to preserve night vision). Children under 16 must be accompanied by adults. No alcohol, smoking, or pets allowed on the STL campus; carry out all trash.

The observatory may have to cancel or postpone an event due to cloudiness, rain, or excessive wind. Check Sky's The Limit Facebook Page or follow @STL29Palms to learn the latest status of an event, or call Steve at (760) 401-3004.

For more information and to see photos taken through STL's 14" Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, visit the STL web site at www.skysthelimit29.org.