

August 2017 Highlight: Perseid Meteor Shower

- ★ On the night of Friday, August 11th and into the pre-dawn hours of Saturday, August 12th, the predictably great performing, annual Perseid meteor shower “peaks.”
- ★ However, because a waning gibbous Moon rises near 11:00 p.m. EDT on Friday the 11th, this year’s peak night will be compromised by an 87% illuminated Moon, severely reducing the amount of meteors seen through the obtrusive moonlight!
- ★ The Perseid meteor shower is produced each August as the Earth orbits through the debris trail of Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle (the source of the meteors), and the “shooting stars” appear to radiate from the direction of the constellation Perseus – hence its name: the “Perseid” meteor shower.
- ★ While this year’s event will be impacted by moonlight, 2018’s Perseids, occurring just past a new Moon, should dazzle in dark skies!

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- ★ While conditions in 2017 are not ideal, you'll still have a chance to catch Perseid meteors in the hours after sunset but before moonrise on the nights of August 11th & 12th (near 11:00 p.m. and 11:30, respectively), or try in the pre-dawn hours of Saturday the 12th, looking for the brightest meteors piercing through the glare of the Moon.
- ★ Seek out a site with clear views to all directions. Dress warmly and wear a hat; recline in a lawn chair or on the ground with a blanket, looking towards whatever part of the sky seems darkest.
- ★ But don't let bright moonlight (or clouds) on the night of August 11th/12th end your chances to see these meteors!
- ★ Some Perseid meteors remain visible for several nights *before* and *after* the peak night; *try a few nights after August 11th/12th*, when the moon rises after midnight, and observe them on any clear, dark night in that time frame!

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Perseid Meteor Shower Peaks

on **August 11/12** – Friday night & Saturday morning (pre-dawn)

The meteors appear to radiate from the direction of the **constellation Perseus** -- hence the name **"Perseid"** meteor shower. They are best observed before moonrise this year.

