



August 2018 Highlight: Perseid Meteor Shower

- ★ On the night of Sunday, August 12th and into the pre-dawn hours of Monday, August 13th, the predictably great performing, annual Perseid meteor shower “peaks.”
- ★ Meteor showers can be severely impacted by moonlight – even just a quarter Moon phase can wash out all but the brightest meteors. When a shower’s projected peak night coincides with a New Moon (or very close), meteor hunters rejoice in anticipation of a dazzling show under dark skies.
- ★ 2018 is one such year, when the peak night occurs less than 2 days after a New Moon, meaning a thin, waxing crescent Moon shortly after sunset will barely interfere with observers’ plans!
- ★ 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.



August 2018 Highlight: Perseid Meteor Shower

- ★ While many are unable to stay up late on Sunday to capitalize on the peak night, the Perseids will be active a couple days before and after August 12th. The meteor count won't be as high as on the projected peak night, but your time spent should be worthwhile.
- ★ You might try your luck after sunset on Friday or Saturday nights, August 10/11, and even Monday or Tuesday, August 13/14, after moonset (around 10:30 p.m.) Remember, because of the Earth's rotation into the comet debris field, **most meteor showers typically are best when seen late at night into the early morning hours.**
- ★ **To maximize your chances**, seek out a site with **clear views to all directions**. Give your eyes time to adjust to the darkness, and avoid bright lights (*including your smartphone screen!*) to keep them dark-adapted. 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. And have fun!



August 2018 Highlight

Perseid Meteor Shower Peaks

on **August 12/13** – Sunday night & Monday morning (pre-dawn)

The meteors appear to radiate from the direction of the **constellation Perseus**, hence the name **"Perseid"** meteor shower. Perseus was great hero in Greek mythology.

