



November 2018 Sky Events

Leonid Meteor Shower

- ★ The annual **Leonid meteor shower** is predicted to peak during the *early morning hours* of **Saturday, November 17th** and **Sunday, November 18th**.
- ★ The Leonid meteor shower is caused by the Earth orbiting into the debris trail (comet dust) left by **Comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle**.
- ★ In 1966, during a 15-minute period, the Leonids produced a true hailstorm of meteors, with estimates in the thousands *per minute!*
- ★ No such hailstorm is predicted this year, though; the shower is expected to produce up to **15 meteors per hour**.
- ★ Unfortunately, in 2018 a bright gibbous Moon will spoil late night views. The darkest skies and best meteor hunting opportunities will be found by those willing to try between moonset (**1:17 a.m. on Saturday** and **2:14 a.m. Sunday**) and **4:00 a.m.**



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The constellation Leo is rising in the east after midnight on the morning of November 17th & 18th.

The Leonid meteors will appear to radiate from this area of the sky – hence the shower's name.



Illustration courtesy of Sky & Telescope