

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)
May 2021 Sky Events

The Moon Joins Three Planets at Dusk

On the evenings of **May 12-15**, the waxing crescent Moon appears to pass nearby the planets **Venus**, **Mercury**, and then **Mars**.

Venus and Mercury are ascending each night in the constellation Taurus, while Mars is descending in the constellation Gemini. Although much closer to the horizon, Venus clearly outshines Mercury and Mars. To see the conjunction of the 1% illuminated, narrow crescent Moon with Venus on May 12th, you will need a very low and clear view to the horizon. Using binoculars will help!

Mercury will continue each night to rise in the evening twilight, as it approaches greatest elongation east of the Sun (22°) on May 17th. On that date Mercury will be some 11° above the W-NW horizon about 45 minutes after sunset. This month Mercury makes its best 2021 visual appearance.

The Moon moves eastward about 13° along the ecliptic from one night to the next, or about $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ per hour. Try following its movement during these spring nights.

Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

