

Asteroid Vesta at Best Viewing Position for the Year

- an August 2022 Sky Event from the [Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)

VESTA, the second largest main belt asteroid (only dwarf planet Ceres is larger), comes to “**opposition**” (closest to the Earth for the year 2022) on **August 23rd**, when it brightens to magnitude 6.0. For much of the month, the 525-kilometer-wide object will be an easy binocular target, as it treks westward across the constellation Aquarius.

On the nights of August 14–16, Vesta passes 1.7° north of the large and ghostly Helix Nebula (NGC 7293).

Vesta derives its name from the Roman goddess of the hearth, home, and family.

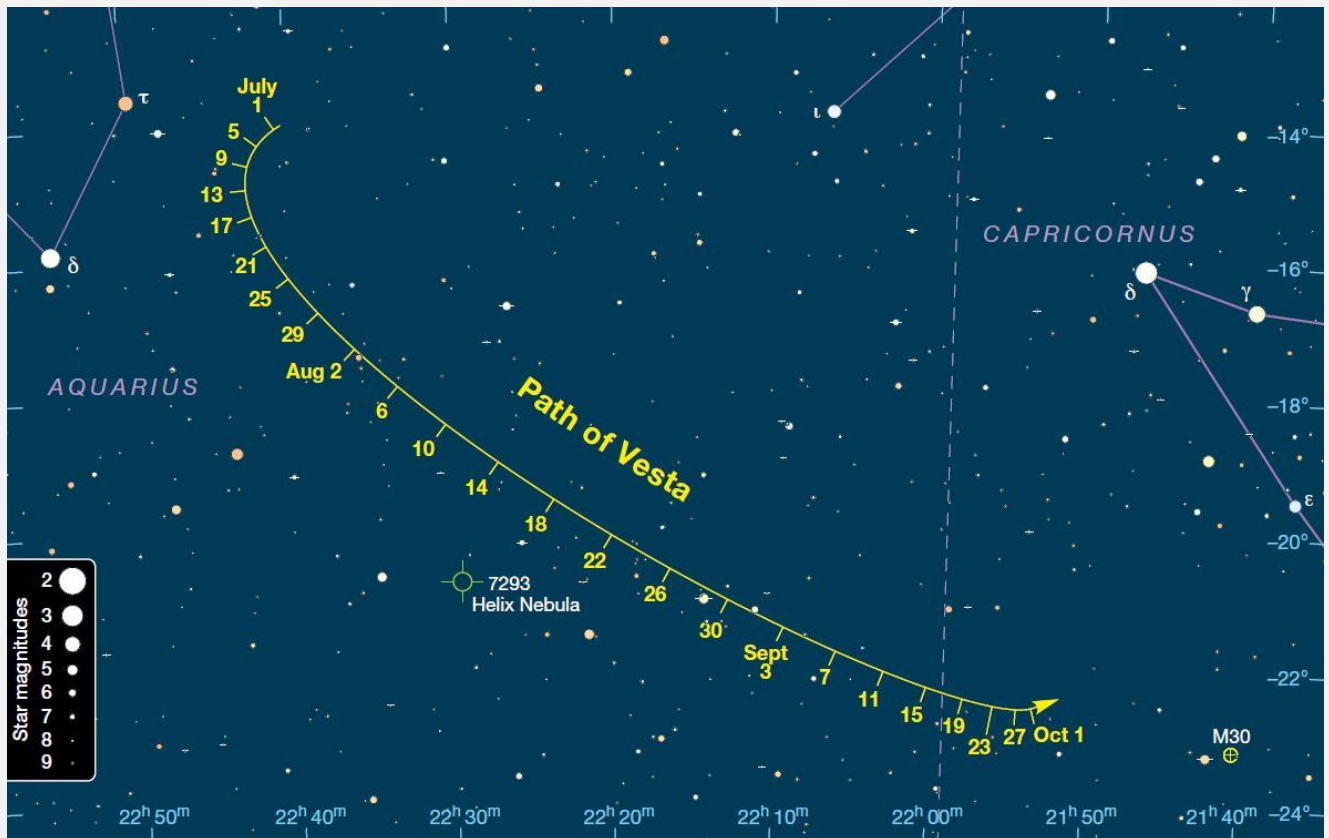


Chart of Vesta's orbital path courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)