

Venus and Mars Gather with the Star Regulus in Leo

On the early evenings of July 1-14, the planets Venus and Mars gather in the constellation Leo along with bright star Regulus. As the star Regulus lies along the ecliptic (the approximate path that the planets, the Sun, and the Moon follow across the sky), it is party to many planetary and lunar conjunctions, like this one.

Go out and watch the changing dance of Venus and Mars with the star Regulus during these first two weeks of July. Venus is at its brightest these nights, as she displays a beautiful 31% illuminated, waning-crescent shape through a small telescope.

At about 42 million miles away, Venus is the closest of the 2 dancers, while Mars is some 209 million miles away, and the star Regulus sends its photons of light our way from a distance of 79 light years (≈ 6 trillion miles times 79). That calculates to 474 followed by 12 zeroes!***

