

Astronomy Club of Asheville
August 2025 Sky Events

Conjunction of the Moon With Mars at Dusk

During early evening on **August 26th**, the waxing crescent Moon will form a striking conjunction with the planet Mars in the constellation Virgo. With clear skies, this juxtaposition will be visible low in the west about one hour after sunset.

Using binoculars or a small telescope will help in locating both the 14% illuminated lunar crescent and Mars.

Mars is some 19 light minutes away or 208 million miles behind the Moon on this night. Joining the gathering is the bright star Spica (a Roman name meaning “ear of grain”) – the brightest star in the constellation Virgo. Spica sends its photons of light our way from a distance of 250 light years (≈ 6 trillion miles times 250).

Spica is the 16th brightest star as seen from Earth and some 2,300 times more luminous than our Sun.



Illustration created using SkySafari & PowerPoint software