

Our Night Sky for March 3rd, 2025

You are never too young or too old to learn the night sky. Most of us have a little dark sky knowledge, and it can be pretty simple to become very familiar with the night sky.

The first step is easy, just step outside and take in the sky every time there is a clear night. After a few weeks you will probably notice that the constellations are advancing across the sky from east to west. If you take in the sky at similar times each night you will see how some constellations just rising in the fall will be quite prominent high in the southern sky by mid winter and by late spring not in the sky at all. This procession of the constellations is because as we make our year long journey around the sun, different parts of the stars surrounding our solar system advance across our skies.

The next step to learn the sky while you watch constellations parade across the night sky: Do a quick search for constellations and pick out a couple that are above our eastern horizon. Right now, a good choice would be kite shaped Boötes or nearby the big square box that is the torso of the stick man Hercules. Both will be higher in the night sky in the weeks ahead and as you follow them you can jump to others that follow a similar path. Both of my daughters knew Cassiopeia because it was right out their bedroom window most of the summer. Repetition, just pick a couple of constellations in Our Night Sky.