

## **Our Night Sky for September 1st, 2025**

**Let's take a moment to look at how our night sky works. If you step outside any night this week at about 10 or 11 pm and look due west, about 15 to 20 degrees above due west you will see the bright sparkling star Arcturus at the base of the kite shaped constellation Bootes. Take a moment and position yourself in an easy to repeat location and site Arcturus past a fence post or a tree. The important part is that you can easily repeat your sightline and over the next few nights you will see how Arcturus is advancing slowly toward setting. In a few days if you take this same position, you will find that the star has just set below the horizon. You will still see the rest of the constellation pointing at the spot below the horizon where the star is now. This will be at about the end of September.**

**To continue following Arcturus and Bootes you will have to wait until the beginning of December when it returns to our night sky. and again, you may follow this easy to identify constellation through next summer until early September 2026 if you remember the exact spot, you set yourself up in 2025 and the fencepost you sighted past you will find that Arcturus has returned to the exact spot that you identified one year ago. I suggested Bootes because it is an easy to identify shape and because Arcturus follows the planetary ecliptic. This is the path in the sky that the solar system planets follow and as a centre plain the stars follow in Our Night Sky.**