

Come See the Stars!

Exploring the Sky

2017 Schedule

A presentation of the National Park Service and National Capital Astronomers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Things of interest</u>
29 Apr	9:00 PM	Winter constellations last gasp; Mars setting
20 May	9:00 PM	Jupiter near Spica; Big Dipper high
17 Jun	9:00 PM	Saturn and Jupiter visible; Vega rising
1 Jul	9:00 PM	Summer Triangle; First quarter moon and Jupiter in Virgo
12 Aug	8:30 PM	Saturn prominent; Andromeda rising
16 Sep	8:00 PM	Vega overhead; Saturn closing on Antares
21 Oct	7:30 PM	Summer Triangle is directly overhead
18 Nov	7:00 PM	Pleiades and winter constellations appear

Exploring the Sky is a joint public observing program between the National Capital Astronomers and the National Park Service. We have been holding these sessions for almost 70 years. We supply the telescopes and you supply the eyes. We meet in the field just south of the intersection of Military and Glover Roads, NW, near the Rock Creek Park Nature Center. A parking lot is located next to the field. The sessions will be canceled in the event of rain or cloudy skies.

Although this is not an optimal observing site, many of the objects people are interested in looking at are visible. At times we can see some of the planets, double stars, open clusters, globular clusters, the occasional comet or asteroid, nebulae and fuzzy galaxies. The latter two will never look like the magazine pictures!

More information can be found at NCA's web site, www.capitalastronomers.org or the Rock Creek Park web site, www.ps.gov/rocr/planyourvisit/expsky.htm. You can also call the Nature Center at (202) 895-6070. For general information on local astronomical events, please visit www.astronomyindc.org.