

# PUBLIC OBSERVING NIGHTS



## THE WILLIAM D. MCDOWELL OBSERVATORY

### Key:

M31- The Andromeda Galaxy

M13- A globular cluster in Hercules

M57- Ring Nebula in Lyra

NGC457- An open cluster in Cassiopeia

NGC869 & NGC884 Double cluster in Cassiopeia

M45- The Pleiades is an open cluster in Taurus and the cluster most obvious to the naked eye.

Mizar & Alcor- Visual binary in Ursa Major. Mizar is a quadruple star system and Alcor is a binary (A sextuple system)

Arcturus- A Bright, orange star

Vega- A bright, blue-white star

Sirius- A bright white star, the brightest in the sky at a distance of 8 light years.

Almach- Quadruple star system including a bright, orange star and a dimmer, blue star (actually 3 stars)

M42- The Orion Nebula is one of the brightest nebulae and the closest region of massive star formation to Earth.

? A question mark after an object we have listed means that it is becoming very difficult to see because it is near the horizon and/or at the limit the telescope can resolve it (see it clearly.) The list of objects mentioned for each date can be modified due to viewing conditions.

**Note:** In order to access the observatory telescope, a visitor must be able to climb 25 steps (nine steps, a landing, 16 steps) in a spiral formation. The stairs have a railing on either side, with the railings approximately 2 feet apart. Please contact the Meadowslands Environment Center offices at least one week prior to visiting to request disability related accommodations.

PLEASE NOTE: Please check the sky as well as our website before your visit. In addition, the buildings are closed by security at 10:30 pm and visitors are to exit the park.

Center for Environmental & Scientific Education  
Three DeKorte Park Plaza  
PO Box 640  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
Phone: 201-460-8300

Phone: Wed: 201-777-2416  
Twitter: MECObservatory  
Facebook: William D. McDowell Observatory

For more information about this program, visit the  
Observatory's website at:  
<http://www.rst2.org/mec> or call 201-460-8300



# THE WILLIAM D. MCDOWELL OBSERVATORY

## FREE PUBLIC OBSERVING NIGHTS WINTER SCHEDULE 2017-2018



### **December 2017 (7:00PM – 10:00PM)**

6<sup>th</sup> Uranus, Neptune, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
13<sup>th</sup> Uranus, Neptune, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
20<sup>th</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
27<sup>th</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)?

### **January 2018 (7:00PM-10:00PM)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Orion Nebula (M42), Open Cluster (M35)  
10<sup>th</sup> Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Orion Nebula (M42), Open Cluster (M35)  
17<sup>th</sup> Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Orion Nebula (M42), Open Cluster (M35)  
24<sup>th</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
31<sup>st</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)

### **February 2018 (7:00PM-10:00PM)**

7<sup>th</sup> Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
14<sup>th</sup> Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
21<sup>st</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)  
28<sup>th</sup> Moon, Uranus, Neptune, Sirius, Almach (double star), Pleiades (M45), Andromeda Galaxy (M31), Orion Nebula (M42), Beehive Cluster (M44), Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)

**PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR THE KEY AND MORE INFORMATION.**

Center for Environmental & Scientific Education  
Three DeKorte Park Plaza  
PO Box 640  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071  
Phone: 201-460-8300

