



TSP 2012

NOVICE OBSERVER

FOR FIRST TIME NON OBSERVERS ONLY



Sponsored by the
Fort Bend Astronomy Club

If you have never done any observing, do not own a telescope or binoculars, were dragged out here with your spouse, significant other or parents and have never shown any interest in astronomy, this program is for you. It will give you just a taste of what they do when they spend all those nights outside looking at the sky. Just give it a try. It's easy, and you'll get a pin for finding **just 10** of the naked eye objects on the list. All these objects can be seen by midnight. You might actually find it interesting and decide to try the binocular observing list.

Find 10 of the objects listed below. You must find the objects yourself, without help from anyone else. You may ask someone to help you orient the star chart and point you in the direction of north. Check off each object in the space provided. To receive your pin, turn in you observations to **John Wagoner - TSP Observing Chairman** any time during the Texas Star Party. I will be at the outside door leading into the TSP Meeting Hall each day between 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM. except Saturday (10:00 am to 11:30 am). If you finish the list the last night of TSP, and I am not available to give you your pin, just mail your observations to me at 1409 Sequoia Dr., Plano, Tx. 75023, and I will see that you get a pin.

- ___ 1. Zodiacal Light – cone of light that can be seen an hour or so after sunset. It's base is at the horizon where the sun sets and its apex extends up to 60 degrees high.
- ___ 2. The constellation Gemini located low in the West.
- ___ 3. Pollux – The brightest star in Gemini. Yellowish in color.
- ___ 4. The planet Mars- located in the Constellation Leo.
- ___ 5. The Beehive Cluster (M44) – in the constellation Cancer. Looks like a large oval nebulous patch.
- ___ 6. The constellation Leo. Stars that form a large backwards question mark or a sickle make up the Lion's head and a triangle of stars make up the hindquarters.
- ___ 7. Regulus – brightest star in the constellation Leo.
- ___ 8. The planet Saturn- located in the constellation Virgo.
- ___ 9. The Big Dipper – in the constellation Ursa Major. Seven bright stars that make up a dipper pattern.
- ___ 10. Mizar and Alcor. The second star from the end of the handle of the Big Dipper is actually a double star. You must see the two stars.
- ___ 11. Polaris, the North Star – Use the two stars that form the outer side of the cup of the Big Dipper as pointers. Start with the star at the bottom of the cup, go to the star at the top of the cup and continue the line about 5 times the distance between those two stars to the brightest star in the area.
- ___ 12. The constellation Corvus.
- ___ 13. Omega Centauri – a very large globular star cluster. It looks like a small circular nebulous patch.
- ___ 14. Coma Berenices – made up of bright and faint stars that look like a large patch of nebulosity.
- ___ 15. Arcturus – the brightest star in Bootes. To find it, follow the curve of the stars in the handle of the Big Dipper downward and to the right. This will bring you to a reddish yellow star, Arcturus.
- ___ 16. Spica – the brightest star in Virgo. Retrace the curving line from the handle of the Big Dipper to Arcturus and keep going about the same distance further until you come to the bright star, Spica.
- ___ 17. The constellation Corona Borealis – a group of 7 stars that resemble a crown.
- ___ 18. The constellation Hercules.
- ___ 19. M-13 – A bright globular cluster in Hercules. Looks like a small fuzzy patch.
- ___ 20. Locate the Northern Cross – in the constellation Cygnus rising in the Eastern sky later in the evening.

