



TEXAS STAR PARTY NOVICE CHALLENGE

RISING STAR OBSERVING LIST

VIRTUAL TSP 2021

FOR FIRST TIME NON OBSERVERS ONLY

If you have never done any observing, do not own a telescope or binoculars, were dragged to star parties, astronomy club events, camping trip, an in town sidewalk viewing event because your spouse, significant other or parents “said it will be fun” 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. Your observing window is from Twilight June 5th, 2021 to Dawn June 13th, 2021. Times are Your Local Viewing Time at your location.

To receive your certificate, email your completed list to promotions@texasstarparty.org. In the subject line enter **Novice Challenge** and in the body of your email please provide the location(s) you did your challenge. *No need to place location with each object.* After I receive your email with your completed list attached, I will send you either a download link or reply with an email with the certificate attached.

- 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 planet Mars in the constellation Taurus located low in the W.
- 3. Pollux – The brightest star in Gemini. Yellowish in color.
- 4. Procyon - The brightest star in the constellation Canis Minor.
- 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. Capella in the Constellation Auriga.
- 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.

