

Dark Sky Happenings

Native Night Sky

When many of us look up in the Northern sky, we are familiar with the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, and the big “W” of Cassiopeia. Though technically the first two are asterisms (groups of stars that are easily recognized but are part of some other true constellation), all three groups are known as circumpolar. This means they are visible at some point in the night, any night of the year, for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere.



Here in the desert Southwest, amongst our Navajo neighbors, these groups of stars play a special role. The stars of the Big Dipper are known as the “Male Revolving One”. He is a father figure, and all that represents. A provider, he hunts food for his family. A protector also, he watches over the hogan (a traditional Navajo home) and his family to keep them safe.

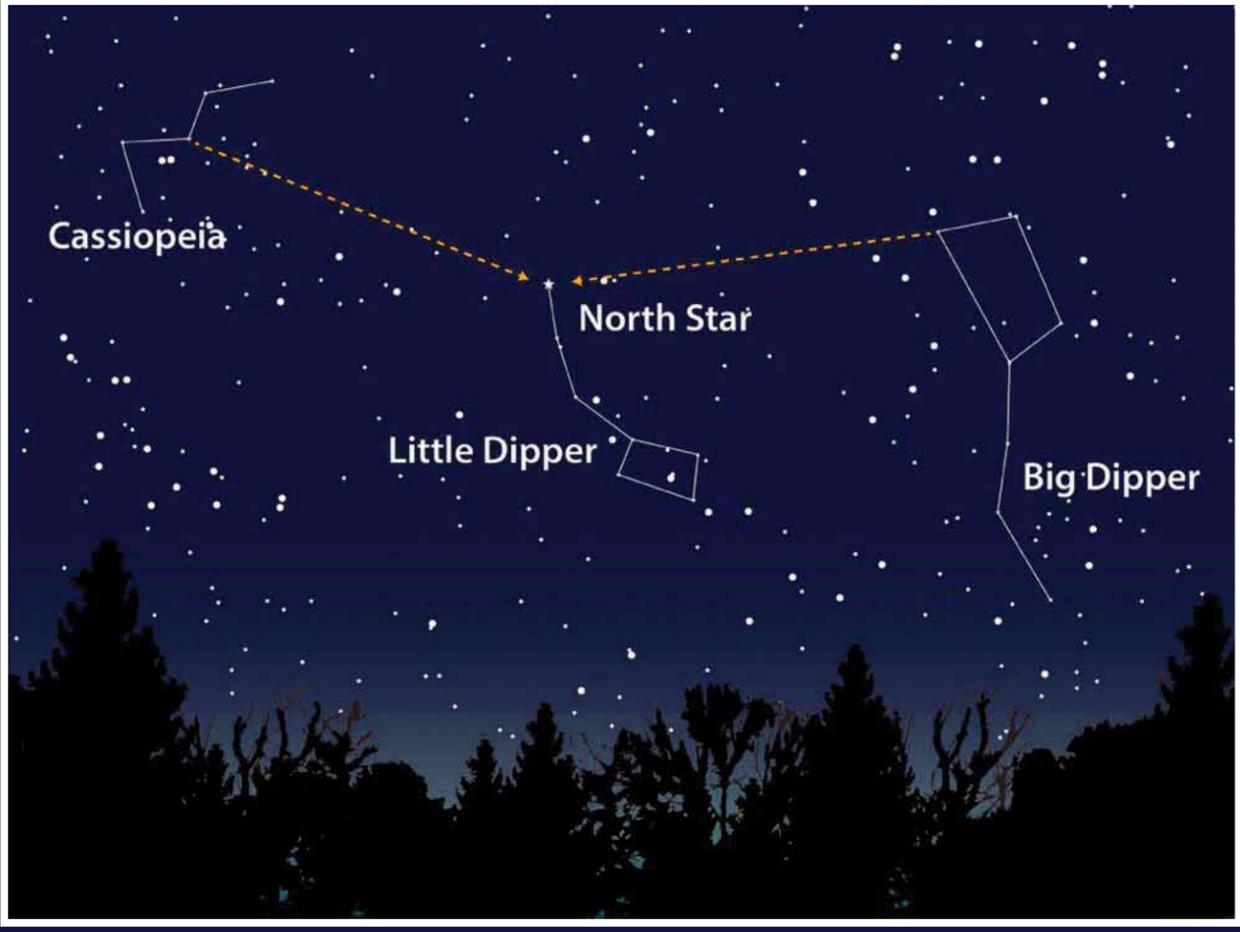
The stars of Cassiopeia are known as the “Female Revolving One”. She is the motherly counterpart to the

Male Revolving One. Also a provider, she brings life into the world and feeds her children from the abundance found around her. A protector, she watches over her family, comforting and treating them when sick or hurt.

The end star in the handle of our Little Dipper is named Polaris, or the North Star. It is almost directly aligned with the earth’s axis, which results in the appearance of all other stars revolving around it. This effect was not lost on the Navajo. They called this grouping around Polaris “The Hearth” and it represents the fire in the center of the hogan. Family life revolves around this fire. It is where meals are cooked and eaten. It brings light to the darkness and warmth to break the caress of a cold wind. Around this fire stories are passed from one generation to the next on long winter nights.

The Moab Dark Skies was established by the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks in conjunction with the National Park Service and Utah State Parks Division of Natural Resources.

Next time you find yourself enjoying Southeast Utah’s dark night skies, perhaps you’ll think of our Navajo neighbors and what the stars mean to them.



MAY SUNRISE & SUNSET TIMES

(The time of sunrise and sunset assumes a flat horizon. Actual time may vary depending upon the landscape.)

DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
1	6:20 am	8:10 pm
2	6:19 am	8:11 pm
3	6:18 am	8:12 pm
4	6:17 am	8:13 pm
5	6:16 am	8:13 pm
6	6:15 am	8:14 pm
7	6:14 am	8:15 pm
8	6:13 am	8:16 pm
9	6:12 am	8:17 pm
10	6:11 am	8:18 pm
11	6:10 am	8:19 pm
12	6:09 am	8:20 pm
13	6:08 am	8:21 pm
14	6:07 am	8:22 pm
15	6:06 am	8:23 pm
16	6:05 am	8:24 pm
17	6:04 am	8:24 pm
18	6:03 am	8:25 pm
19	6:03 am	8:26 pm
20	6:02 am	8:27 pm
21	6:01 am	8:28 pm
22	6:01 am	8:29 pm
23	6:00 am	8:30 pm
24	5:59 am	8:30 pm
25	5:59 am	8:31 pm
26	5:58 am	8:32 pm
27	5:57 am	8:33 pm
28	5:57 am	8:33 pm
29	5:56 am	8:34 pm
30	5:56 am	8:35 pm
31	5:56 am	8:36 pm

MOON HAPPENINGS

May 21 - First Quarter at 2:49 pm
 May 29 - Full Moon at 10:20 pm

UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK

TOWAOC, COLORADO

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

During the National Preservation Month of May the “Eighteenth Annual Ute Mountain Tribal Park Open House” will be held on May 26, 2018.

“Porcupine House and Train Site Rock Art Tour”

starting at 9:10 a.m., \$29.00 per person
 Ute Bear Dance Singing, Fry Bread Tasting and Ute Give Away (items give away to tour participants) at 8:50 A.M. Transportation is free and on a first come first serve basis.
No reservations required.

“Inaccessible, Casa Colorado, & Casa Blanca House Cliff Dwelling Tour”

July 7, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.
 Tours are \$35.00 per person and transportation is \$14.00 Per person. Various tour participant pickup locations.
 Tour reservations are required.

“Turning Red Tail Hawk Tour to Morris Three Cliff Dwelling and She House Cliff Dwelling”

In Johnson Canyon, will be held on August 11, 2018, At 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. departure times from the Tribal Park Visitor Center. This tour is \$35.00 per person, transportation is free and on a first come first serve basis.
 Tour reservations are required.

“Porcupine House Cliff Dwelling and Atlatl Point Tour”

August 18, 2018 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Tours are \$48.00 per person and transportation is free and on a first come first serve basis.

Full day, half day, remote, and private tours are conducted April 2018 to October 2018

Departure times from the Tribal Park Visitor Center.
 Tour fees vary.

Tour reservations can be made at phone numbers (970) 565-9653 & (970) 565-3751 ext. 330
 e-mail: utepark@fhone.net
 or umtp@utemountain.org
 Website: utemountaintribalpark.info

Note: Ute Mountain Tribal Park does not accept credit cards. Accepted are: personal checks, cash, money orders, and traveler checks. Tours may be canceled due to inaccessible roads or bad weather.

Look Where We Live!

Night Sky Art Exhibit

May 18, 2018

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Arches National Park Visitor Center

Artwork by Hadlee James, age 9, 3rd grade at HMK Elementary

Come see the wonderful night sky art created by Moab’s 3rd and 4th grade students, and meet the young artists and Art Coach Bruce Hucko.

No park entrance fee! Refreshments provided!



Sponsored by:

Moab Dark Skies
 Live and Play under the Milky Way