

## Autumn 2024 Stargazing Programs at the

# John Glenn Astronomy Park



The John Glenn astronomy Park (JGAP) is open at all times (*with the exception of our program nights, see below*) for people to enjoy views of sky, day or night. Just drive up!

On clear Friday and Saturday nights, from March through the weekend before Thanksgiving, we do “guided stargazing” programs starting at sunset. (*Check times listed below.*) These often involve a laser-guided “tour” of the constellations and features of the sky. Volunteers bring, or “adopt” telescopes for the evening and share views in our telescope. Visitors to our programs can get in line for a view through our enormous “Wow!” telescope in our observatory when conditions are favorable. On many nights astro-imagers on site will share live views of celestial objects on their computer screens.

Please note: Because our parking space is limited, **we require visitors to our Friday and Saturday night programs to secure a free parking pass for the early evening hours.** Please respect this requirement to ensure that we do not run out parking space for those who have pre-planned a trip to JGAP. *Space is infinite, our parking area is not.*

Get one at: [registration.jgap.org](http://registration.jgap.org)

Additional parking passes are frequently posted a few days before each event. Watch for them at the bottom of the list.

Visitors to the Hocking Hills Lodge and the Hocking Hills State Park Cabins (immediately alongside JGAP) are welcome to walk over without a pass.

If you have your own telescope, binoculars, or just two eyes that love to gaze upon the stars, you are free to drive into JGAP on a *non-program* night without a parking pass. Clear, moonless nights show off the dark skies of the Hocking Hills the best.

Here’s what to expect at our programs this Autumn:

### September 27-28: Saturn in a Dark Sky

The glorious rings of Saturn are much thinner this year, but they still wow viewers. This distant world is at its best this month. Also, a lovely fall Milky Way in a dark sky. 7:15 PM

### October 4-5: The Andromeda Galaxy

The largest companion to our own Milky Way may or may not someday collide with us. Come learn about it, and see it in our dark skies. 7:15 PM

### October 11-12: The Mountains of the Moon

The rugged Apennine mountains are perfectly illuminated this weekend to appreciate them. Also, Saturn and distant Neptune are well placed. 7:00 PM

### October 18-19: The Moon Only Seems Big

This weekend is a perfect time to experience the so-called moon illusion, where the moon seems uncannily big. It’s not, but the optical illusion seen after sunset is impressive. Also Saturn! 6:45 PM

### October 25-26: The Drama of Cassiopeia, Andromeda and Perseus

The IAU constellations in the fall skies tell an ancient story of pride, a sea monster, and accidental heroism. Come learn this story on a lovely dark sky weekend. Also, Saturn! 6:45 PM

### November 1-2: Fall Skies

The sky in the fall is filled with celestial wonders: The Andromeda and M33 Galaxies, the rising Pleiades Cluster, Saturn, the riches of Cassiopeia and Cepheus, and maybe a comet. This is a dark sky weekend. 6:30 PM

**November 8-9: The Rugged first Quarter Moon**

This weekend sees the lunar terminator dividing the moon in two. It's the best time of the month to see its countless craters, valleys and mountains. 5:30 PM EST

**November 15-16: The Moon Near the Pleiades and Uranus**

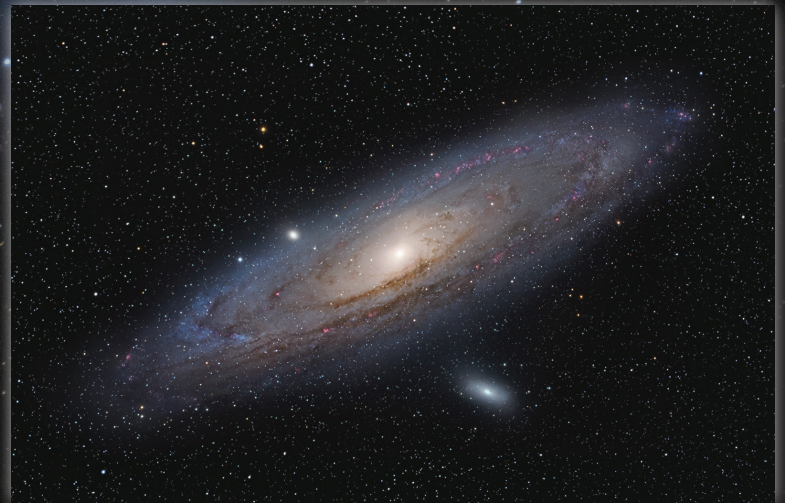
Once a month, the moon passes near the most famous star cluster. When it's full, the cluster is hard to see. Can you spot it? 5:30 PM

**November 22-23: Jupiter Rises, our Year Sets**

At the last scheduled program of our year, the giant planet Jupiter sets. Come learn about it, and enjoy its companions Saturn and Uranus. 5:15 PM

*The Andromeda Galaxy (M31) is one of the highlights of the fall sky on clear, dark nights.*

*When conditions are favorable, this distant "island universe" can be seen with the naked eye as a faint, lens-shaped smudge. When its light has reached your eyes it has been traveling for 2.5 million years!*



Because our programs are about the stars, they are dependent on weather. They will be called off on rainy or cloudy evenings. Please check the hour-by-hour weather forecast before setting out.

We post notice of whether or not an evening's program will go forward on our website, JGAP.org, and our Facebook Page "John Glenn Astronomy Park", by noon on the same day as the program.

I also recommend checking:

Weather.gov

Put "Logan, OH" into the search bar.

As astronomers say, *Clear Skies!*



The John Glenn Astronomy Park is brought to you by the Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park a non-profit (501c3) membership organization for people who love the Hocking Hills and take special interest in improving Park features and preserving it for the enjoyment of future generations.

If you'd like support the mission of The Friends go to

<http://www.friendsofhockinghills.org/>

or scan the QR code at right.

