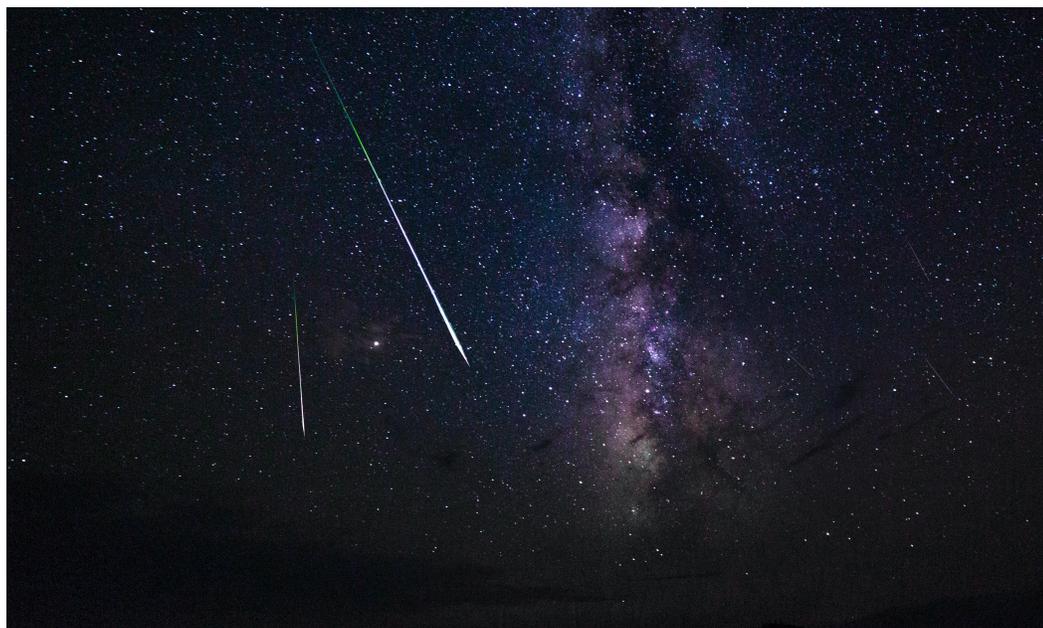


# Perseid Fact Sheet

Coming on the night of August 11 and 12.



## Let's count wishes together!

No matter where you are you can enjoy watching meteor streak across the sky

The shower's peak performance is across August 11/12/13 overnight hours, but a trickle of meteors can be seen days before and after. You can see as many as 30 to 70 shooting stars per hour depending on your observing location.

**1**

### CLEAR SKIES

Make sure you have an unobstructed view of your overhead skies.

**2**

### LIGHTING

Turn off all lighting that can brighten your skies such as patio lights.

**3**

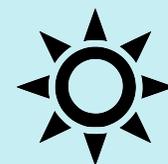
### RELAX

You don't need anything except your eyes. Pull up a chair and enjoy the show!



### Comet Swift Tuttle

Debris from the trail of this 10 Km (6 miles) -wide comet is the source of the shower.



### Debris Clouds

As the comet rounds the sun, its icy nucleus heats up shedding particles.



### Meteors

The shower occurs when the Earth passes through the debris cloud left by a comet.

## Science Facts

- Comet Swift-Tuttle is the largest object to make repeated passes near Earth. At 10Km/6 miles across it is about the same size as the comet that wiped out the dinosaurs.
- The Perseids meteoroids hit Earth's atmosphere incredibly fast, at speeds of 60 km/s or 133,200 mph.
- Most of the Perseids are no bigger than the size of sand grains.
- If a meteor hits the ground then it is called a meteorite.
- Comet Swift-Tuttle itself was seen from Earth as far back as 69 BC, but last visible from Earth in 1992 and will return in 2126.
- When a meteor races through Earth's atmosphere, its kinetic energy is converted into heat, making it glow white hot. That is what you see as the streak of light.
- The Perseids takes its named for the constellation Perseus from which they appear to radiate from in the sky.
- Millions of meteoroids travels through Earth's atmosphere everyday.
- The Perseid meteor shower was first observed 2000 years ago and was recorded by Chinese astronomers.



## Viewing Tips

- Wait 15 to 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt to the darkness of night.
- Expect to see a mixture of bright to light streaks traveling across the sky which each one lasting only a fraction of a second.
- Meteor streaks can cross large sections of the sky so best views are from locations with an open view.
- The number of meteors increase their intensity in the hours just before dawn.
- While most meteors are tiny, some can be golf ball-sized stones that produce exceptionally bright meteors called fireballs. On the peak dates of the Perseids, watch for them they are blazing lights across the sky.



### ASTRONOMERS WITHOUT BORDERS AND INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

Astronomers Without Borders and International Dark-Sky Association has paired up to view the Perseid Meteor shower together. Share this fact sheet with your community and have them join in too.

