

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

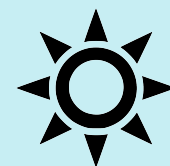
RELAX

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.

