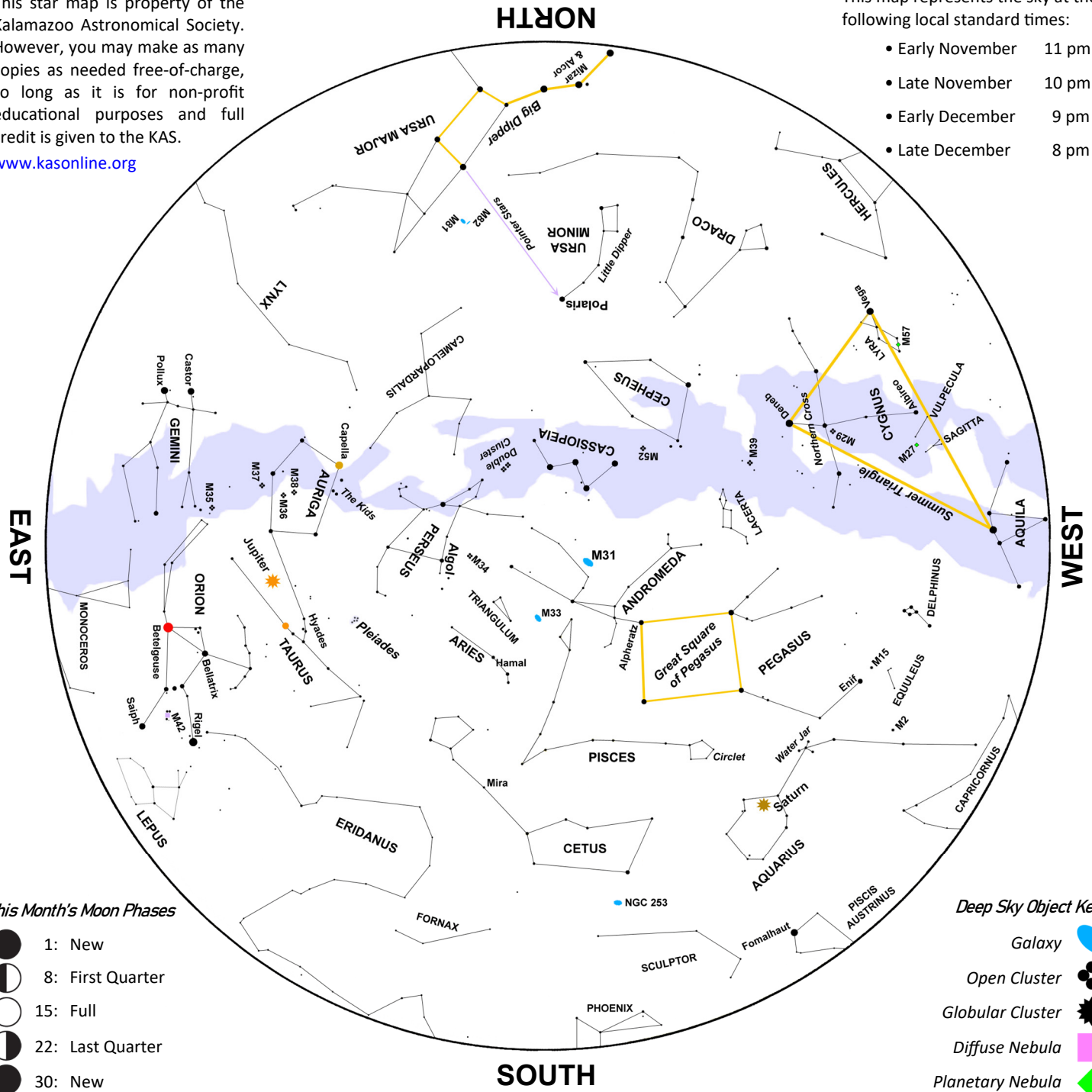


# December Night Sky

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This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

- Early November 11 pm
- Late November 10 pm
- Early December 9 pm
- Late December 8 pm



### This Month's Moon Phases

- 1: New
- 8: First Quarter
- 15: Full
- 22: Last Quarter
- 30: New

### Deep Sky Object Key

- Galaxy (blue oval)
- Open Cluster (black cross)
- Globular Cluster (black star)
- Diffuse Nebula (pink square)
- Planetary Nebula (green diamond)

If the sky is uncharacteristically clear at dusk on December 4<sup>th</sup>, look in the south-southwest sky for a waxing crescent Moon 2½° to the lower left of brilliant Venus. The scene will become even more stunning when twilight deepens, especially in binoculars.

The Moon's next planetary conjunction is on the evening of December 7<sup>th</sup>. It hangs about 3½° to the lower right of Saturn shortly

before they set in the west-southwest. This night also marks Jupiter's opposition. You can find the Jovian giant between the stars Aldebaran and Elnath in Taurus.

A waxing gibbous Moon hangs 1½° above Mars on the evening of December 17<sup>th</sup>. However, that separation closes to within only ½° around 4am on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Viewers in the northwest U.S. enjoy occultation.

The Moon visits two prominent spring stars during the mid- to late-month. On the evening of December 19<sup>th</sup>, you'll find a waning gibbous Moon about 2° to the upper left of Regulus. Look for a waning crescent Moon 3° to the upper right of Spica shortly before dawn on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, a thin crescent Moon lurks 1° right of Scorpius at dawn on December 28<sup>th</sup>.