

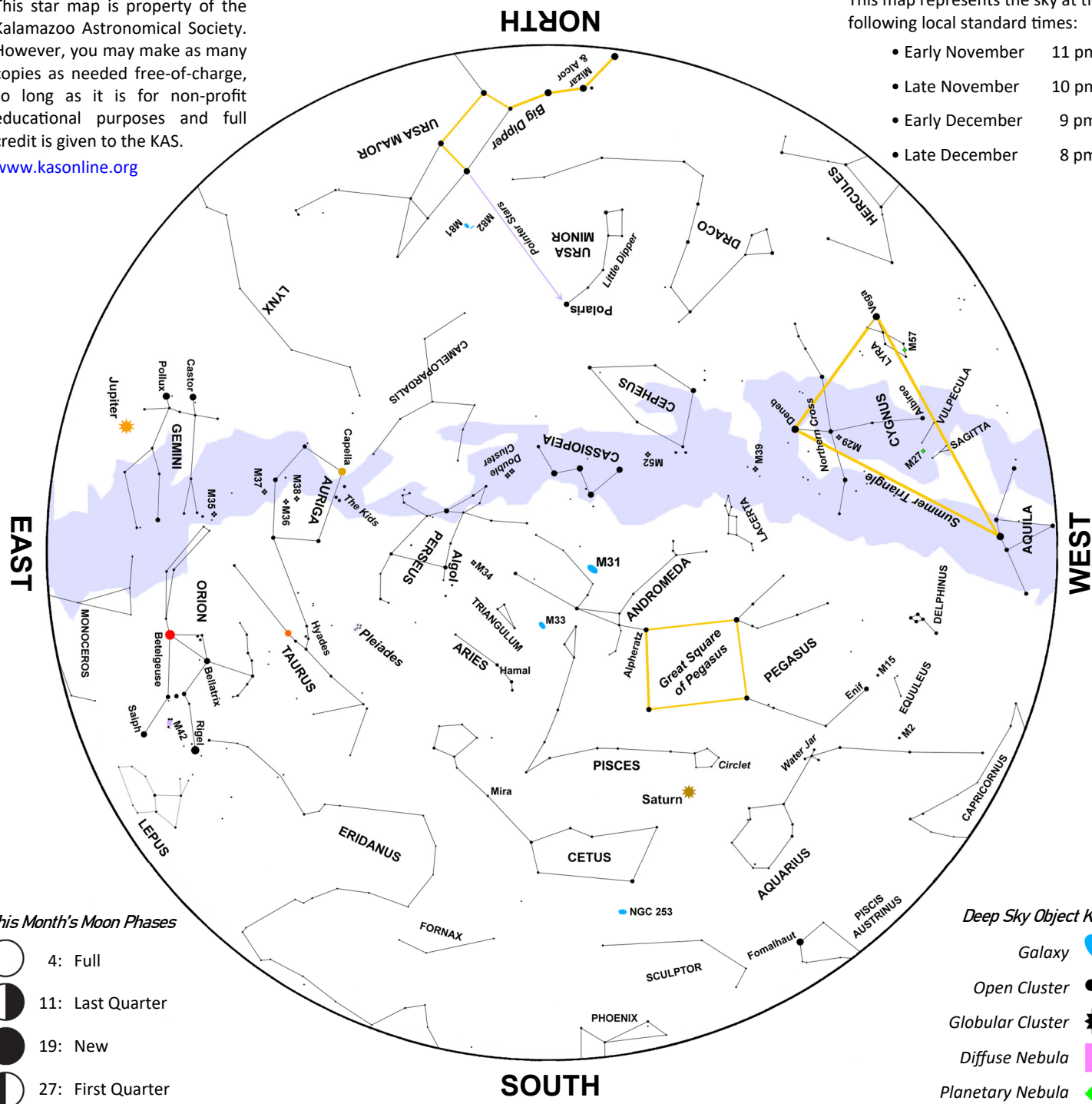
December Night Sky

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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



On the evening of December 9th, a waning gibbous Moon rises in the east-northeast, positioned about 1° above Regulus, the heart of Leo the Lion. The Moon will draw closer to Regulus, reaching a proximity of 25' (less than ½°) to the star's left by 1:15 am EST.

The Geminid meteor shower, known for being one of the most prolific meteor showers of the year, is expected to peak at

2:30 am EST on the night of December 13th/14th, conveniently occurring in the middle of the weekend. A waning crescent Moon will rise around 3am, posing no interference for observers. Those at a dark sky site could potentially see nearly 150 meteors per hour when the shower peaks at 2:30 am on the 14th.

While you are out enjoying the Geminids,

take a moment to look toward the southeast during the early morning hours of December 14th. You will spot a waning crescent Moon located about 2° to the right of blue-white Spica in Virgo.

On December 26th, at dusk, a waxing crescent Moon, just one day shy of first quarter, will appear a bit less than 3° to the upper right of Saturn.