

# Tips for successful Stargazing

Stargazing is the perfect opportunity for families to gather on a grassy hillside on a star-studded night to gaze upward at the beautiful tapestry of stars and planets overhead. This exercise will help you create a comfortable, enjoyable first stargazing experience to help children identify the constellations and enjoy stargazing. With the right preparation and a cooperative sky, you can't fail to have a good time.

## **What you'll need:**

- NightSky® Star Wheel or other reference book
- Binoculars or telescope
- Flashlight
- Blankets and camp chairs
- Snacks

## **Directions:**

1. Refer to a calendar to find out when the next new moon phase will occur. Stars are best viewed during a new moon phase since those nights are the darkest.
2. Scout out a good viewing area. The ideal area will have few trees and obstacles blocking your sight. Bring along a flashlight to help you find your way in the dark.
3. Set the NightSky® Star Wheel to the current date and hour that you choose for stargazing. You do this by lining up the date on the rim of the circular disk and the time indicated along the edge of the outer sleeve.
4. To view the constellations in the Star Wheel at night, point the provided red LED light into the large end of the Star Wheel. Red light allows you to see the image, but doesn't effect your adjusted nightvision.
5. Match the stars in front of you with the stars in the sky to identify the constellations. Use binoculars to get a closer view.
6. Gaze deep into the stars and enjoy identifying different constellations.