Showpiece List ("L1" on pin – meaning Level 1)

A great way to enjoy the unique beauty of the dark skies at Oregon Star Party (OSP) is to view bright deep sky objects, colorful double stars, and planets through a telescope. The objects listed are easily visible in most telescopes, and many can also be seen in binoculars. They are among the brightest showpiece objects in the sky.

While you encouraged to try them all - to receive the Showpiece List observer pin you must observe and record at least 12 of the objects listed below while you are here at OSP. As an added reference each object's page number in the popular Sky and Telescope Pocket Sky Atlas (PSA) is listed as well (or where it would be, if not actually included – like planets).

Most of the objects listed below are visible between sunset and midnight during the star party. All are visible before astronomical dawn. The Showpiece List award is intended for visual observing. Go-to telescopes and image enhancers (photography) are not permitted for the Showpiece List award. You may get assistance in locating objects on star charts or in the sky, but you must locate them yourself with your telescope. Looking through a telescope, in which someone else has sighted the object for you, is not acceptable. Object sketches are a bonus but they are not necessary if you provide a good description of each object.

When finished, bring your record of observations to the Observing Program table next to the Information Tent to receive your pin. *Please check the information tent for updates on when the Observing Program table will be staffed, and where it is going to be for the next session. Typically it will be manned later in the afternoon.*

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2026 Oregon Star Party Showpiece List

#	Type	Object	Con	Mag	Sep/ Sp	PSA	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	RA (Jnow)	Dec (Jnow)	Alternate Name and/or Comments
Double Stars							Star Chart Ref Coordinates		Pointing/Go-To Coordinates		
1	DS	Polaris A & B	Uma	1.96	18.4"	1	02h 31' 55.1"	89° 15' 50.0"	03h 06' 31.2"	89° 22' 32.0"	North Star - actually a double. The companion is a great way to confirm the correct star is being used for finder or equatorial drive alignment.
2	DS	Albireo	Cyg	3.03	34.6"	62	19h 30' 43.2"	27° 57' 34.0"	19h 31' 47.8"	28° 00' 55.0"	Bright double star with contrasting colors. Note the colors you see.
3	DS	Epsilon Lyra	Lyr	4.65	209.5" 2.2" 2.4"	63	18h 44' 20.3"	39° 40' 14.0"	18h 45' 13.3"	39° 41' 50.0"	The Double-Double, a wide double star which is made of two close double star pairs
4	DS	Mizar/Alcor	Uma	2.21	11.8'	43	13h 23' 55.9"	54° 55' 30.0"	13h 25' 00.5"	54° 47' 08.0"	Wide double of bright stars - can you see both with just your eyes? Mizar is itself a tighter double as well. Coordinates are for Mizar.
5	DS	12 Del	Del	5.12	8.7"	64	20h 46' 38.8"	16° 07' 21.0"	20h 47' 53.2"	16° 13' 12.0"	Bright double star, somewhat tight. Can you see them both (split them)? Colors?
Emission Nebulae											
6	EN	M8	Sgr	6	1.5°	67	18h 03' 48.0"	-24° 23' 00.0"	18h 05' 26.3"	-24° 22' 57.0"	Lagoon Nebula
7	EN	M20	Sgr	6.3	29'	67	18h 02' 36.0"	-23° 02' 00.0"	18h 04' 13.3"	-23° 01' 59.0"	Triffid Nebula
8	PN	M57	Lyr	8.8	1.4'	63	18h 53' 35.7"	33° 01' 48.0"	18h 54' 35.3"	33° 03' 46.0"	Ring Nebula
9	PN	NGC7293 Helix	Aqr	7.6	15'	76	22h 29' 38.5"	-20° 50' 11.0"	22h 31' 06.0"	-20° 41' 59.0"	Helix nebula - Relatively large but farily dim in appearance compared to Ring Nebula.
Globular Clusters											
10	GC	M4	Sco	6.66	36'	56	16h 23' 35.2"	-26° 31' 32.0"	16h 25' 13.6"	-26° 35' 16.0"	Large and bright globular cluster.
11	GC	M13	Her	6.46	20'	52	16h 41' 41.2"	36° 27' 35.0"	16h 42' 38.6"	36° 24' 29.0"	Great Hercules Cluster.
12	GC	M62	Sco	7.64	15'	56	17h 01' 12.8"	-30° 06' 49.0"	17h 02' 54.9"	-30° 09' 10.0"	Bright globular cluster in Ophuchus.
13	GC	M71	Sge	9.27	3.3'	64	19h 53' 46.4"	18° 46' 45.0"	19h 54' 57.8"	18° 50' 54.0"	Very loose globular cluster, small, challenge.
Galaxies											
14	GX	M31/M32/M110	And	4.29	3°	3	00h 42' 44.3"	41° 16' 08.0"	00h 44' 11.9"	41° 24' 55.0"	Andromeda Galaxy and bright nearby satellites Very large, bright galaxy - bright portion is about 2x moon size, 6x to full extents.
15	GX	M33	Tri	6.35	1°	2	01h 33' 50.9"	30° 39' 35.0"	01h 35' 21.3"	30° 47' 49.0"	Triangulum Galaxy - large, dimmer, more of a challenge.
16	GX	M81	UMa	7.79	22'	31	09h 55' 33.2"	69° 03' 55.0"	09h 57' 44.2"	68° 56' 19.0"	Prominent Sprial and
17	GX	& M82	UMa	8.93	11'	31	09h 55' 52.3"	69° 40' 47.0"	09h 58' 04.8"	69° 33' 10.0"	irregular galaxies in Ursa Major, can see both together in wide field view.
Open Clusters											
12	OC	NGC884 & 869	Per	5.74	18'	2	02h 19' 00.0"	57° 07' 00.0"	02h 20' 53.2"	57° 14' 23.0"	Double Cluster, showpiece, large. Can you make out the Parchute asterism in NGC 869?
18	OC	M11	Sge	6.32	32'	67	18h 51' 05.0"	-06° 16' 00.0"	18h 52' 31.0"	-06° 14' 07.0"	Dense open cluster - recommend trying at both lower and higher powers for very different views.
20	OC	M29	Cyg	7.3	10'	62	20h 23' 57.0"	38° 30' 00.0"	20h 24' 55.9"	38° 35' 09.0"	Small bright open cluster, "Cooling Tower" or "Pants" Cluster.
19	OC/DN	NGC6520 & Barnard 86	Sgr	7.6	2'	67	18h 03' 24.0"	-27° 53' 00.0"	18h 05' 05.0"	-27° 52' 57.0"	Collinder 361/Cr361. Open cluster next to dark nebula - the "Ink Spot".
21	OC	Collinder 399/Cr399	Vul	3.93	1.5°	64	19h 25' 24.0"	20° 11' 00.0"	19h 26' 33.8"	20° 14' 08.0"	Open cluster in the shape of a coathanger, large, need wide view, low power.
Planets											
22	P	Venus	Leo	-4.13	18"	34	10h 40' 21.0"	09° 31' 34.0"	10h 41' 45.3"	09° 23' 12.0"	Brightest planet, visible at dusk (sets about 10:30PM), include shape seen.
23	P	Saturn	Psc	0.7	18"	5	00h 56' 28.2"	03° 22' 14.0"	00h 57' 50.8"	03° 30' 55.0"	Amazing sight, best views an hour or two after midnight

Award Requirement:

See and sketch at least 12 of the 23 objects or object groups as described above. Not required but ideally would include background stars/objects or detailed description as appropriate so your observations can be validated. Again, not required but ideally also Include equipment used, date, time, sketch orientation (N or W).

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Data Sources:
Coordindates generated for 7/17/2026 1:00:00 AM
Locations J2000.0 Jnow + mag & size/separation (except as noted)
using Starry Night Pro Plus Ver. 8.1.0.2050 leEW
Additional source where not availble from SN8:
Sky Safari Pro Ver. 8.0.2.0 (Android)
Indicated by * between J2000 and Jnow coordinates
or * in Mag or Size/Sep columns if used as source for that data

Object Types Key:

P	Planet	DP	Dwarf Planet
GX	Galaxy	SC	Star Cloud
GXG	Galaxy Group	S	Star
GC	Globular Cluster	DS	Double Star
OC	Open Cluster	MS	Multiple Star
PN	Planetary Nebula	CS	Carbon Star
EN	Emission Nebula	VS	Variable Star
SN	Supernova Remnant	DiffN	Diffuse Nebula
DN	Dark Nebula	A	Asteroid
RN	Reflection Nebula	Ast	Asterism
C	Comet	Q	Quasar
N	Nova	O	Other