

Welcome to Hungry Mother State Park

Attention all stargazers, the night sky is calling. Here at the park we have some prime viewing areas located at the spillway, the beach front and the ballfield behind Ferrell Hall. Year-round the sky is filled with stars, planets and constellations with stories to tell. Here in the Northern Hemisphere we have circumpolar constellations that can be viewed all year long. What are we waiting for? Let's go stargazing.

October Constellations

Aquarius
Piscis Austrinus

November Constellations

Pisces

December Constellations

Aries
Cetus
Eridanus

Star Gazing Smart Phone Apps

Star Walk 2
Night Sky
Star Tracker
Sky Map



Please watch for additional monthly Stargazing guides to learn more about stargazing in our park.

For more information about Virginia State Parks, please visit:
www.virginiastateparks.gov

Discovery Center Hours of Operation:

October and November
10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. daily

December
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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Interpretation Office:

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Virginia State Parks

Hungry Mother State Park

Stargazing in the Park



October, November & December



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www.virginiastateparks.gov

October Constellations

Aquarius (The Water-Bearer)

Aquarius is one of the oldest constellations in the sky. In Greek myth, Aquarius was Ganymede, the young boy kidnapped by Zeus. Zeus sent his eagle, Aquila, to snatch Ganymede out of the fields where the boy was watching over his sheep. Ganymede would become the cupbearer for the Olympian gods. The Sumerians also believed that Aquarius brought on a global flood. This flood happened to be at the same time when the rainy season began in the Middle East. Also, many of the stars that make up Aquarius have names referring to good luck.

Piscis Austrinus (The Southern Fish)

The constellation has its origins in Babylonian culture, where it was known as the Fish, or MUL.KU. It was associated with the Syrian fertility goddess Atargatis, who fell into a lake near the river Euphrates, and was rescued by a large fish. The goddess would later punish all those who ate fish, but her priests were allowed to eat it every day.



November Constellations

Pisces (The Fish)

In Greek mythology, the two fish represented Aphrodite and her son, Eros. One day they were fleeing the giant Typhon, when they jumped into a stream, turned to fish and swam away. It is said they tied a string to their tails so they could stay together. Even the constellation shows this long string shared between them.

December Constellations

Aries (The Ram)

In the Greek myth, Phrixus was the son of a Boeotian king. He had a twin sister, Helle. The children had a stepmother, Ino, who hated them and wanted to get rid of them. She came up with a plan to put the land on the brink of famine by making sure the wheat crops failed. When a man was sent to consult the Oracle at Delphi, Ino bribed him to lie and say the Oracle asked for the king's children to be sacrificed if they did not want the people to starve. Phrixus and Helle were about to die when a winged ram with golden wool came to their rescue. The ram was sent by their real mother, the cloud nymph Nephele. It took both children and flew east to Colchis. Only Phrixus survived the journey. Helle fell off the ram and drowned in the Dardanelles. The strait was later renamed to Hellespont, or sea of Helle, in her memory. Phrixus was welcomed by King Aeëtes of Colchis, to whom he presented the Golden Fleece. In return, the king gave Phrixus his daughter Chalciopé's

hand. The Golden Fleece was placed in a temple. This is the same Golden Fleece which later appears in the story of Jason and the Argonauts.

Cetus (The Sea Monster)

In classical civilizations, the figure was the giant sea monster that almost ate Andromeda. King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia were forced to leave their daughter chained to a cliff. When the monster came up to eat her, the hero Perseus defeated him and later married Andromeda.

Eridanus (The River)

Eridanus is known as the Celestial River. It is most often related to the Nile or Euphrates Rivers because they were so important to ancient civilizations. Eridanus is the second longest constellation in the night sky.

