

Show Me The Stars



DarkSky Festival

Big Spring - Van Buren, MO

October 25-26, 2024



darkskymissouri.org



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OUR PURPOSE

Our DarkSky Festival is an opportunity for people to enjoy and celebrate relatively unpolluted skies and learn about what light pollution cost us in our daily lives. Missouri has a few locations, such as [Ozark National Scenic Riverways](#), that can remind us of what a natural night sky might have been just 200 years ago, but we are losing them fast.

You can help us protect our night sky and nature at night by getting involved in our DarkSky Missouri movement. Volunteer your time, spread the word, and help fund our work. Visit DarkSkyMissouri.org to learn more.



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Event Schedule (Preliminary)

Dark Sky Festival taking place October 25-26, 2024

Friday, October 25, 2024	
4:00 PM	Registration Table Opens
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Program: Dark Skies Presenter: Shaun Heise, ONSR, Interpreter
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Dark Sky Viewing
Saturday, October 26, 2024	
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Program: Nature/Bird Walk Co-Led by Reva Dow, Twin Pines Conservation Center and Greg Swick, Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Free time
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Program: How Big is Big Spring Presenter: Loring Bullard, Author
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Program: Early Logging of Old Growth Pine Presenter: Jim Gulden, Forester
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Program: Pioneer Forest - A Case Study for Conservation Presenter: Jason Green, Forester
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Program: Nightscape Photography Basics Presenter: Ben Caruthers, Great Ozarks Audubon Society
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Program: Spreading Life in the Darkness Presenter: Dan Zarlenga, MDC
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Program: Let There be Night: Dark Skies as a Natural Resource Presenter: Dr. Vayu Gokhale, Truman State University
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Free time
6:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Program: Dark Sky Party

[Sign-up to get DarkSky Festival Updates](#)



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Information Tables (Preliminary)

Information tables on display: Saturday, October 26, 2024, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Organization	Website
DarkSky Missouri	DarkSkyMissouri.org
Greater Ozarks Audubon Society	GreatOzarksAudubon.org
Lights Out Heartland	LightsOutHeartland.org
Missouri Department of Conversation	MDC.MO.gov
Ozark Riverways Foundation	Ozarkriverwaysfoundation.org
Ozark Society	OzarkSociety.net

FREE INFORMATION TABLES FOR ORGANIZATIONS!

If an organization that you represent would like to have display table, please email us at darkskyfestival@darkskymissouri.org to get more information.



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Accommodations

Campground information:

- Camping is first-come, first-serve with 23 electric only sites (no water or sewer)
- Dump stations available at campground entrance, water hydrants available at restrooms. \$20.00 per night.
- Non-electric sites are \$10.00 per night- 20 sites available but more could open up depending on demand.

Vacation Rentals:

- Multiple vacation rentals available in the area with [Vrbo](#) and [Airbnb](#).

Area motels include:

- [The Rosecliff Lodge at The Landing](#)
- [Big Spring Road Motel](#)
- [Current River Inn](#)
- [Big Spring RV Camp](#)
- [Skyline Drive Vacation Rental](#)

Restaurants:

Some of the most popular restaurants in Van Buren include:

- [The Blue Heron Restaurant at The Landing](#)
- [Redbeard's Steak and Seafood](#)
- [Jolly Cone Drive-In](#)
- [Float Stream](#)
- [Smalley's Convenience](#)



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More Information on Hotels/Restaurants

For more information on hotels/restaurants in the area, please visit the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce website at vanburenmo.com

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a fee for entering the park area or for the event itself?

The event is free.

2. Will there be food vendors? Will food or water be available for public purchase Friday and Saturday?

Water will be available at hydrants by bathrooms. We will have a big orange cooler with water to fill attendee water bottles. No water for sale. No food vendors are currently scheduled.

3. What sort of tables/booths are you planning?

Tables include DarkSky, Audubon, MDC, various river groups, Master Naturalist. We hope to get astronomy groups to do demos and help with telescopes as needed.

4. Will power be available at booths on or at the observing field?

Power is available at pavilion, 3- 220 outlets, 3- 120 outlets

5. Do you know what cellphone reception is like in the viewing area?

Cell phone reception is spotty but was able to get forecast info during eclipse there and take light meter readings at night.

6. Can we park our cars next to our telescopes?

Cars won't be allowed to park by telescopes so that visitors can more easily go to each telescope. However, telescope operators could probably unload/ load then go to parking area which is very close.

7. Do you plan any merchandise like t-shirts?



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We will have logo'd festival shirts available for sale at the event. A variety of sizes will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only cash or check will be accepted. Sorry, no shipping is available.

8. What do you recommend volunteers bring and what should the public bring?

Chairs, coolers for food/drinks, insect repellent, sunscreen.

9. Any activities on Sunday?

No activities are planned for Sunday.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways – Information

Website:

Ozark National Scenic Riverways: <https://www.nps.gov/ozar/index.htm>

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 490
Van Buren, MO 63965
Phone: (573) 323-4236

Telephone Numbers:

Big Spring Entrance Station (located south of Van Buren, MO):

- Call (573) 323-4236.

Alley Springs General Store (located west of Eminence, MO):

- Call (573) 226-3945

Round Springs Ranger Station (located north of Eminence, MO):

- Call (573) 858-3297



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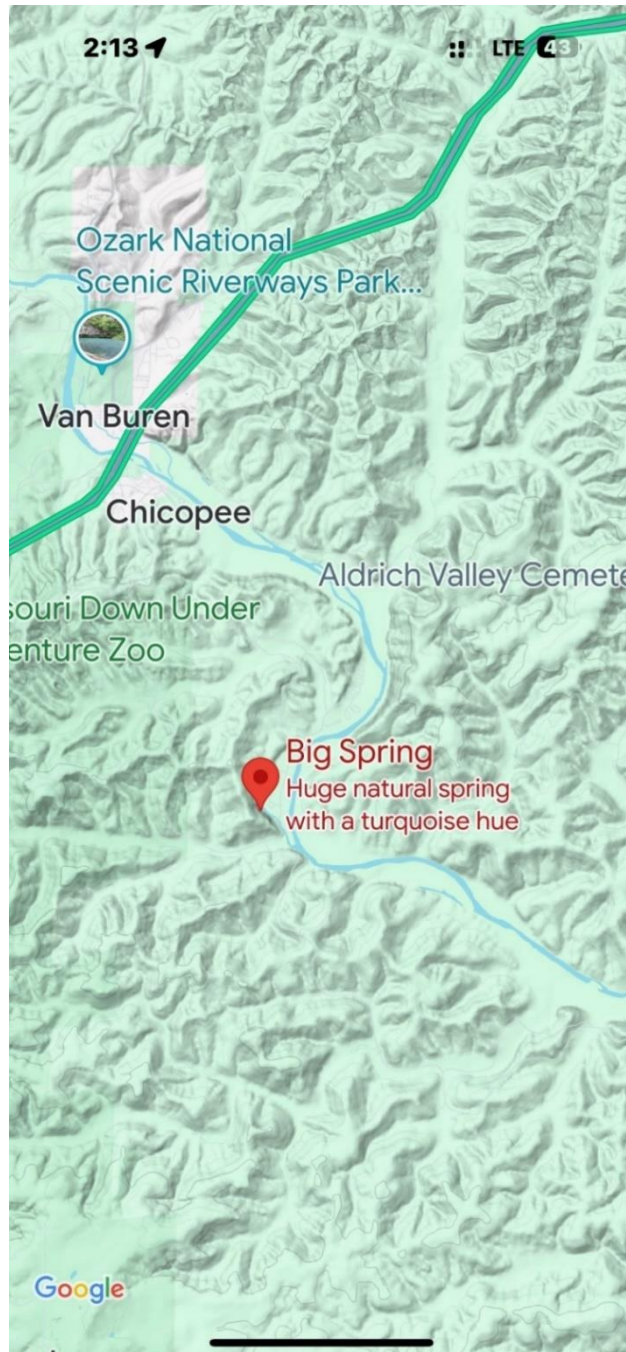
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Map - Event Area

Link to event area: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/MtF3P62iVGhCVxxQA>





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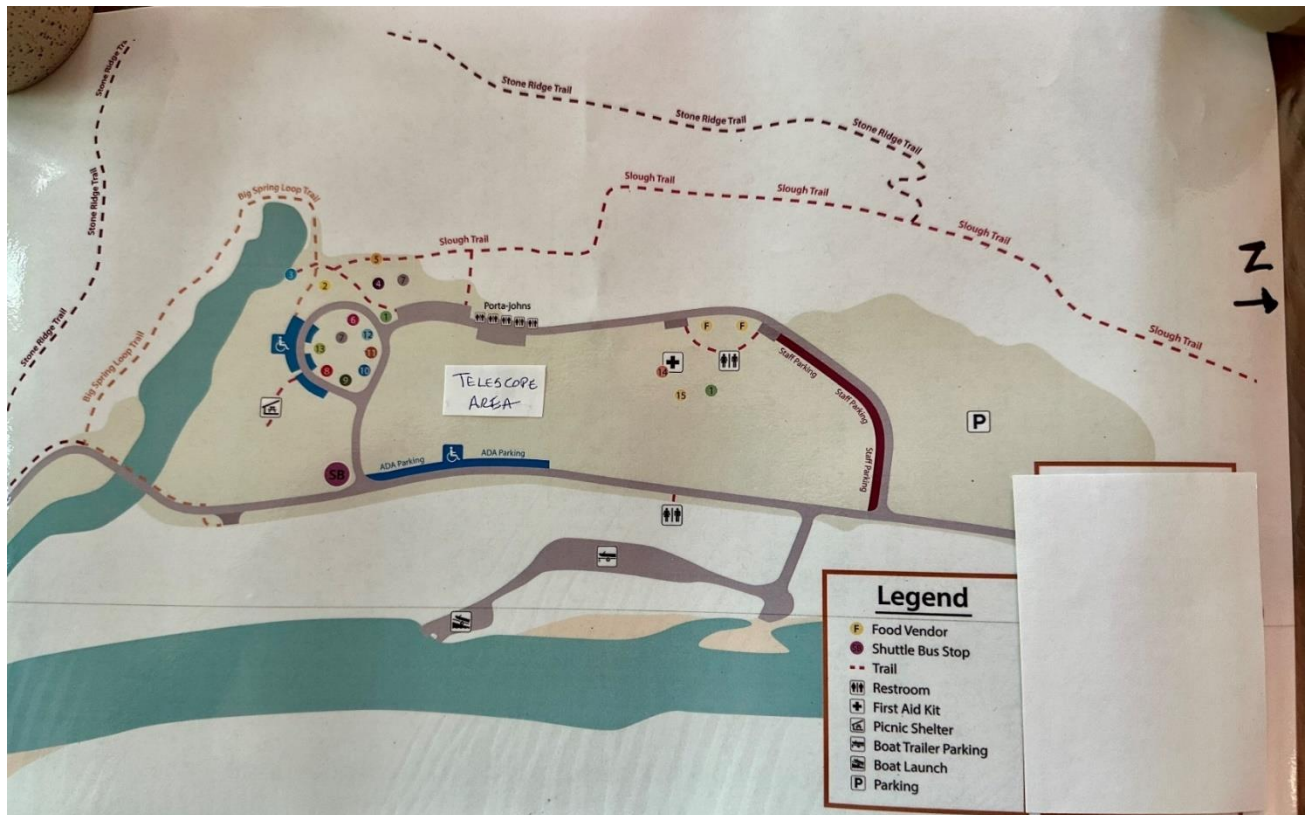
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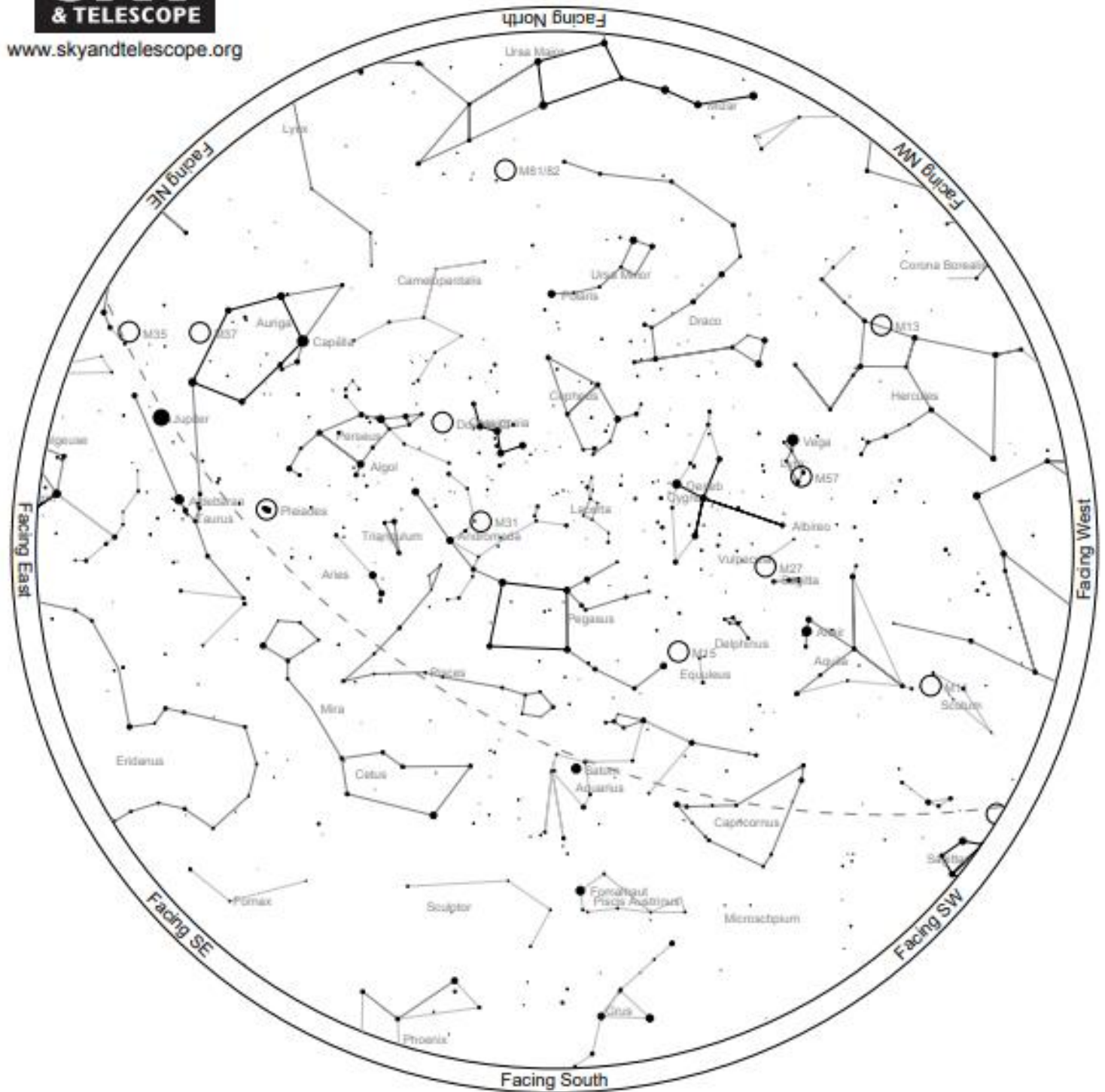


Map - Telescope Viewing Area

Link to event area: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/MtF3P62iVGhCVxxQA>



Sky Chart



Location: Van Buren, MO 63965
Latitude: 36° 59' N, longitude: 91° 00' W
Time: 2024 October 25, 22:00 (UTC -05:00)

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