Meteor shower calendar 2027 for families: every peak, Moon and verdict

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All twelve meteor shower peaks of 2027 with the Moon on each night and Peabody's verdict. The Quadrantids are the great one; the Perseids lose to the Moon.

In 2027 the best meteor shower for families is the first one: the Quadrantids on the night of 3–4 January, with only a 12% Moon, rated "great". The Eta Aquariids in May get a moonless sky, and the Delta Aquariids in July a thin one, so both rate "good". The Perseids in August and the Geminids in December, usually the year's two best, both meet a bright Moon in 2027 and drop to "good". Six of the twelve come out "quiet". Every shower has its own page under Peabody's meteor showers, with a countdown and a night kit to print.

The whole year

Peak nights and rates are the American Meteor Society's. A peak "night" is the evening of the first date and the morning after it. The Moon is from Peabody's sky table, at 10 pm Mountain Time.

- Peak night: 3–4 January · Shower: Quadrantids · Rate at best: 120 · Moon: 12%, waning · Verdict: Great
- Peak night: 22–23 April · Shower: Lyrids · Rate at best: 18 · Moon: 94%, waning · Verdict: Quiet
- Peak night: 5–6 May · Shower: Eta Aquariids · Rate at best: 40 · Moon: none · Verdict: Good
- Peak night: 29–30 July · Shower: Delta Aquariids · Rate at best: 25 · Moon: 15%, waning · Verdict: Good
- Peak night: 12–13 August · Shower: Perseids · Rate at best: 100 · Moon: 85%, waxing · Verdict: Good
- Peak night: 8–9 October · Shower: Draconids · Rate at best: 10 · Moon: 66%, waxing · Verdict: Quiet
- Peak night: 21–22 October · Shower: Orionids · Rate at best: 20 · Moon: 56%, waning · Verdict: So-so
- Peak night: 4–5 November · Shower: Southern Taurids · Rate at best: 5 · Moon: 39%, waxing · Verdict: Quiet
- Peak night: 11–12 November · Shower: Northern Taurids · Rate at best: 5 · Moon: 96%, waxing · Verdict: Quiet
- Peak night: 17–18 November · Shower: Leonids · Rate at best: 15 · Moon: 80%, waning · Verdict: Quiet

- Peak night: 13–14 December · Shower: Geminids · Rate at best: 150 · Moon: 100%, full · Verdict: Good
- Peak night: 21–22 December · Shower: Ursids · Rate at best: 10 · Moon: 31%, waning · Verdict: Quiet

"Rate at best" is the most a perfect dark sky would show in an hour with the radiant overhead. A back yard sees a fraction.

How the verdict works

It's a small sum, the same for every shower. Start with the rate. If the Moon is a waxing one less than about half lit, it sets before midnight, when showers get going, so it doesn't count against the shower. Any other Moon washes out the faint meteors in proportion to how much of it is lit. Then: a score of 60 or more is "great", 20 or more "good", 8 or more "so-so", and anything less "quiet".

So the Geminids, the richest shower of the year at 150, still fall to "good" under a full Moon. And the Eta Aquariids, a middling 40, rise to "good" because there is no Moon at all.

The four worth planning around

- Quadrantids, 3–4 January. Great, but short and cold: the strong part lasts only a few hours, best before dawn. Our Quadrantids post has the details.
- Eta Aquariids, 5–6 May. Good, and dark. The catch is the hour: only the last hour or two before dawn, low in the east-south-east, and better the further south you live.
- Delta Aquariids, 29–30 July. Good, and warm. Low in the south after midnight, mixed with early Perseids.
- Perseids, 12–13 August. Good despite the Moon. In Denver, Peabody's table has the Moon setting at about 2:30 am, so the stretch between moonset and first light is dark: the best window for an early-rising family.

The one for bedtime

The Draconids, 8–9 October, are the only shower that is best in the early evening, high in the north-west just after dark. In 2027 they're quiet: a small shower with a 66% Moon. Still, if a child wants to see a meteor before bed, it's the shower to try.

How to use the calendar

1. Mark the four on a family calendar now.
2. Check the weather the day before. Clouds beat every verdict.
3. Plan for twenty minutes, dressed warmer than seems sensible. Our stargazing checklist fits in a coat pocket.
4. Print the night kit from the shower's page and keep the tally. Next year's count is more

interesting with this year's beside it.

Three questions grown-ups ask

Why do the dates repeat every year? Earth crosses the same comet or asteroid dust trail at the same point of its orbit, so the peaks land within a day or so of the same date.

Why are the Perseids "good" and not "great"? An 85% Moon is up for much of that night and hides the faint ones.

What about the end of 2026? The Geminids on 13–14 December 2026 rate "great", with a thin Moon that sets early.

Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, with no ads and no sign-up. The library has stories at your child's reading level for the nights it's cloudy.

Sources

- American Meteor Society, meteor shower calendar 2026–2027: every peak night and rate.
- The Moon on each night comes from Peabody's own sky table, worked out with astronomy-engine (MIT license).
- NASA, meteors and meteorites.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/meteor-shower-calendar-2027