

10 Best Things To See In The Winter Night Sky



Orion

With the naked eye, you may see a star at the center of the misty patch. Binoculars reveal a few more, but the view through a telescope will show four tiny stars twinkling from the nebula's heart.



NGC 2362

Appears just off-center as a brilliant white star surrounded by a multitude of much fainter stars.



Sigma Orionis

At a magnification of 35x, you'll see a row of three stars similar to Orion's belt with a bright white star close to the middle star.



Castor & Pollux

Both stars are white and of almost equal brightness. The secondary star appears a little fainter and could show pale blue and violet flashes, whereas the primary may show hints of pale green.



M79

At 35x it appears midway between two magnitude nine stars. It has a bright core, but if you want to resolve the cluster into its individual stars, you'll need to up the magnification to at least 100x.



NGC 2392

Notice a secondary ring of faint nebulosity that forms a circle about the brighter, central nebula. It may look like a parka jacket snugly surrounding a face, but you'll need a medium scope to see it.



R Leporis

A variable star, it changes in brightness from magnitude 5.5 to 11.7 over a period of roughly 430 days and should be easily seen with binoculars when at its brightest.



Messier 35

Easily seen with binoculars, you might be able to resolve some of its member stars with 10x50's. A small telescope will provide a fine view; it appears larger than M41 but less condensed.



Messier 41

Through a telescope you'll see that many of the stars are blue-white and of similar brightness; however, there is a pair of stars just a little brighter than the others, with one of the pair shining with an orange hue.



Messier 36, 37 & 38

All three clusters are easily seen with binoculars. At magnitude 6.8, M38 is the faintest, but it appears more densely populated than the others, with the brightest stars forming a clear X or K pattern.



HIGH POINT
S C I E N T I F I C