

M6 & M7

When these two big, bright, and beautiful open star clusters appear in the early evening in mid June, summer is not far behind.



If you have recently begun your journey under the stars, why not whet your appetite by exploring southeastern Scorpius and its two wonderful open star clusters, M6 & M7. You will return to them year after year!

While they are visible to the unaided eye from a dark location, binoculars help greatly.

1. Identify Scorpius standing low in the south-southeast on a late spring or early summer evening. As summer proceeds, it is found low in the south, then low in the southwest in the early fall.
2. From red Antares, direct your gaze southward down the scorpion's back, then turn eastward.
3. When its tail hooks northward, continue the length of that hook.
4. M6 and M7 should be plainly visible in the binocular field.

M6:

A faint hazy glow is seen by the unaided eye from a dark, clear site. Two dozen stellar lights can be discerned with 10x50 binoculars.

M7:

A glittery glow is easily spotted off the scorpion's tail by the unaided eye. Binoculars reveal many faint stars.

