



VCAS, P.O. Box 982, Simi Valley, CA 93062

WWW.VCAS.ORG

VCAS ALCor INFORMATION

Constellation Hunter Club / Certificate



Constellation Hunter Club Logo

Introduction:

Welcome to the Astronomical League's Constellation Hunter Club. The Constellation Hunter Club has two certifications and pins: The Northern Skies and the Southern Skies. The purpose of these programs is to provide an orientation to the sky for amateur astronomers. They require no special equipment (other than a planisphere and a reference for the brighter star names), and no prior knowledge. The objective is to provide a forum for the observer to become more familiar with the constellations and brighter stars, to begin to learn to navigate among the stars, and to provide a solid foundation for moving on to other observation programs such as the Messier Club.

Rules and Regulations:

To qualify for the AL's Constellation Hunter Certificates and pins, you need only be a member of the Astronomical League, either through VCAS or as a Member-at-

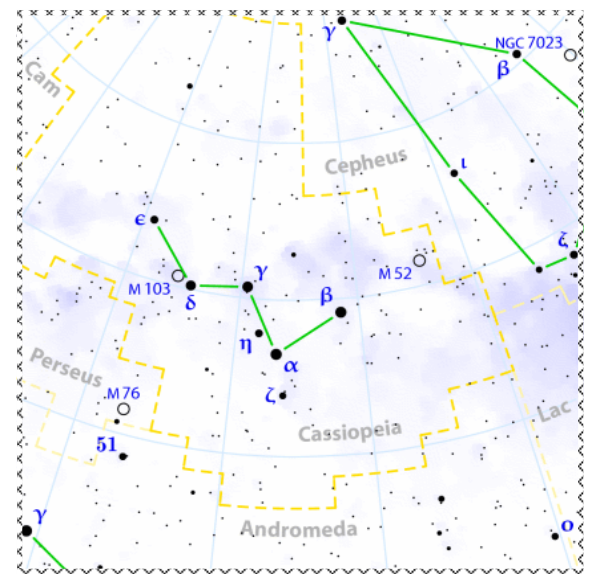
Large, and observe and sketch all of the constellations on the checklist. Binoculars, while not required, will give you a deeper look into the star fields that you sketch. You should not include these additional stars and objects on your sketches, but the view will give you an appreciation for all of the things that await you in the other Astronomical League Certification Programs. You should proceed constellation by constellation.

For each constellation, you need to provide the following data:

- Local date and time.
- Latitude and Longitude of observation.
- Constellation name.
- Sky conditions: transparency, and seeing.
- A sketch of all stars that were visible to the unaided eye, out to the limits of the constellation's boundary. Named stars should be identified on the sketch.
- The sketch should include other objects that are visible within the boundaries of the constellation, including but not limited to: galaxies, open clusters, globular clusters, and nebulas.

To receive your Constellation Hunter Certificate and pin (or if you have any questions or need assistance), simply send your sketches along with your name, address, and phone number to the VCAS ALCor at :

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Cassiopeia

Suggested Resources:

Planisphere

Low power binoculars

Any elementary astronomy text

The Great Atlas of the Stars, by Serge Brunier

The Backyard Astronomers Guide, by Dickinson & Dyer

Stars & Planets, Peterson Field Guide by Jay Pasachoff

www.astroleague.org

They have a great online bookstore, logsheets, and pertinent information on the various observing programs.

The Sky Software

Observing List:

The 39 constellations are listed in alphabetical order. Your observing plan should be based on those constellations that are visible on any particular night. You can generate this list using a planetarium. Information provided on each object is a check box, constellation name, right ascension, and declination. This is a list of all of the constellations that appear north of the ecliptic.

Constellation Hunter Northern Skies Observing Checklist			
	Constellation	Right Ascension (center)	Declination (center)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andromeda	01 hr	+ 40 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquarius	23 hrs	- 10 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquila	20 hrs	+ 4 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aries	03 hrs	+ 20 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auriga	06 hrs	+ 39 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bootes	15 hrs	+ 40 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Camelopardis	06 hrs	+ 69 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancer	09 hrs	+ 20 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canes Venatici	13 hrs	+ 40 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canis Minor	08 hrs	+ 5 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cassiopeia	01 hr	+ 60 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cepheus	23 hrs	+ 75 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coma Berenices	13 hrs	+ 20 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corona Borealis	16 hrs	+ 30 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cygnus	21 hrs	+ 40 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Delphinus	21 hrs	+ 10 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Draco	17 hrs	+ 60 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equuleus	21 hrs	+ 7 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gemini	07 hrs	+ 22 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hercules	17 hrs	+ 30 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lacerta	23 hrs	+ 46 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leo	11 hrs	+ 14 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leo Minor	10 hrs	+ 34 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lynx	08 hrs	+ 46 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lyra	19 hrs	+ 35 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monoceros	07 hrs	0 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orion	05 hrs	+ 5 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pegasus	03 hrs	+ 45 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perseus	04 hrs	+ 46 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pisces	01 hr	+ 10 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sagitta	20 hrs	+ 20 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serpens Caput	17 hrs	0 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serpens Cauda	17 hrs	0 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sextans	10 hrs	0 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Taurus	05 hrs	+ 20 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Triangulum	02 hrs	+ 32 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ursa Major	11 hrs	+ 56 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ursa Minor	15 hrs	+ 75 deg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulpecula	20 hrs	+ 25 deg