

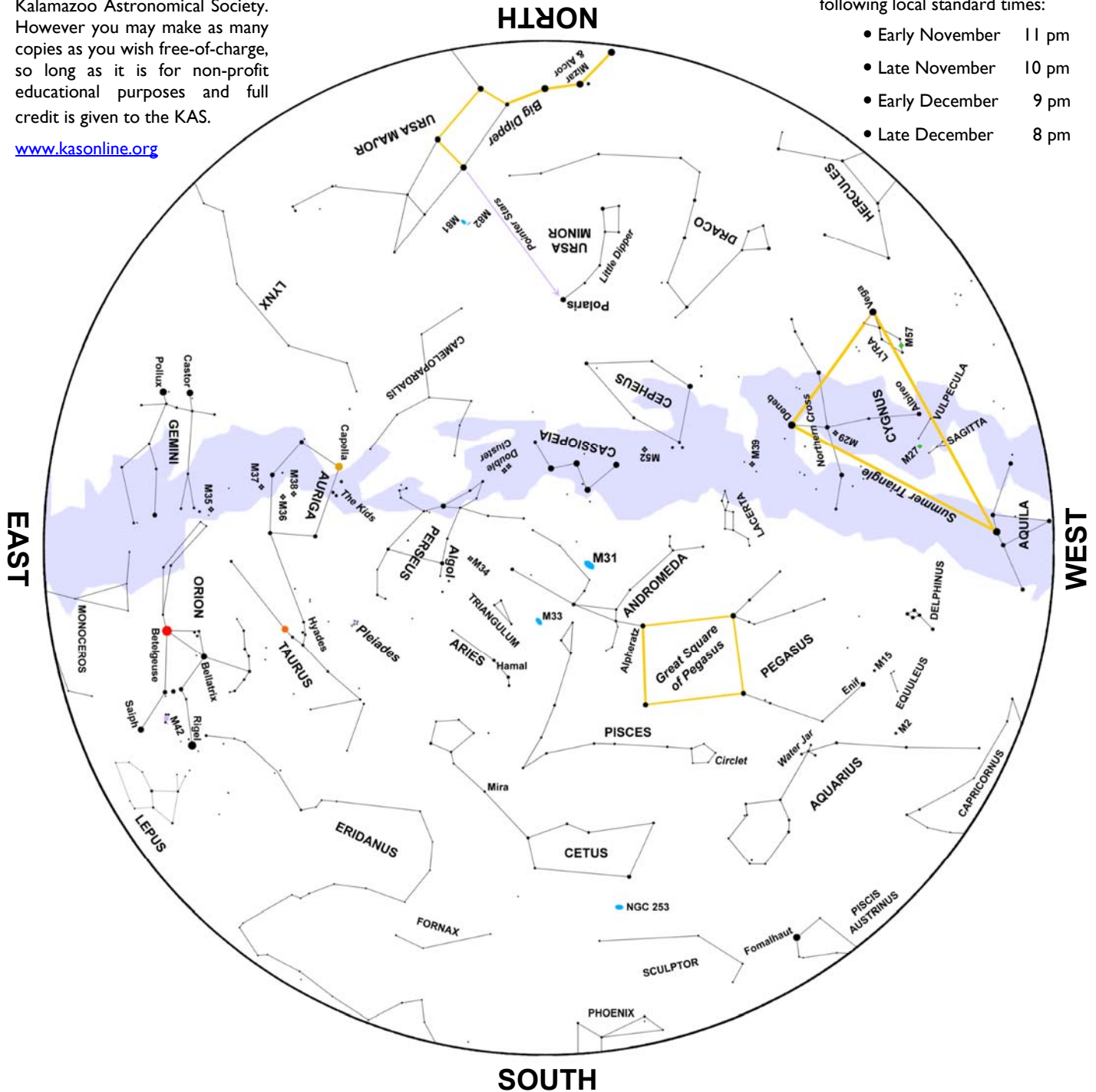
December Night Sky.....

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This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

- Early November 11 pm
- Late November 10 pm
- Early December 9 pm
- Late December 8 pm



The peak of the Geminids, one of the most prolific meteor showers of the year, is predicted to occur at 1:30 am EST on December 14th. Therefore, best viewing times will take place on the night of December 13-14, starting around 8pm until dawn the following morning. The Moon, in a waning crescent phase, won't rise until

4:23 am so its interference will be minimal. Provided skies are actually clear, observers could witness anywhere from 50 - 120 meteors/hour. Shooting stars will appear to radiate at a point 2° southwest of Castor.

Meteor watchers that pull an all-nighter will be treated to the thin sliver of a

crescent Moon 4° above Jupiter just before dawn. Faint Mars will be 9° to the upper right of the Moon.

A waxing gibbous Moon will occult the bright star Aldebaran at 6:14 pm EST on December 30th. The star will reappear at 7:12 pm. Binoculars or a telescope will be needed to enjoy the show.