

What's in the Sky for September 2022



September 10: Full Moon

The Full Moon closest to the September Equinox is called the Harvest Moon. Most years, the Harvest Moon is in September, but approximately every three years, it is in October. The Harvest Moon is the most famous of all the Full Moon names. Usually, the Moon rises on average 50 minutes later every day in a lunar month. However, for a few days around the Harvest Moon, the Moon rises less than 50 minutes later than the day before. In the old days, the early moonrise for a few days around the equinox meant that farmers could work and harvest their crops for a longer time each of those days. This year the Moon will rise at 8:14 pm.

September 22: September Equinox

The September Equinox is the point where Earth experiences roughly equal lengths of day and night. In the northern hemisphere it is called the Autumnal Equinox and marks the beginning of Autumn or Fall. In the southern hemisphere it is called the Vernal Equinox and marks the beginning of Spring. There are usually many outdoor festivals around the world celebrating this change in seasons. Little Elm will celebrate **Autumn Fest** September 15-18, 2022 (Thursday through Sunday) at Little Elm Park. This is a fun event for the entire family.

September 25: New Moon

The New Moon is the first lunar phase. During the New Moon, the Sun, Earth, and the Moon are aligned. The Moon is situated between the Sun and the Earth. The position of Earth blocks the sunlight, making the Moon invisible to us on Earth. Many believe the New Moon symbolizes new beginnings, and some people feel it is the best time to start new projects.

September 26: Jupiter at Opposition

On this night Jupiter will reach opposition to the sun and will appear very large and bright. At 367 million miles away, Jupiter will be its closest to earth since October 1963. With no light from the moon, Jupiter will outshine even the brightest stars in the sky. Jupiter will rise in the East at 7:20 pm and be in excellent viewing position by 8:30-9:00 pm. Grab your telescope for this rare spectacular view of the stormy bands and many moons of our solar system's great gas giant.

September All Month: Saturn rises early evening and is viewable all night. Jupiter rises at the beginning of the month around 9:00 pm but rises earlier every night and by the end of the month will be rising at 7:00 pm. Mars rises just after midnight at the beginning of the month. By the end of the month Mars rises an hour earlier at 11:00 pm. If you are willing to stay out late you can view all 3 in a single night.