

Astronomical League Certification: Constellation Hunter

...and a couple of other thoughts

Dick Mallot

ALCOR Representative

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Outline of the Requirements To Qualify:

- Member of the Astronomical League...
- No equipment is needed...
- Binoculars are helpful to appreciate the sky region, but not required.
- Observe and sketch all the constellations on the checklist you are pursuing... the Northern Constellations
- 39 Constellations on the list.

What You Record to Qualify

- Local Time and Date
- Latitude and Longitude of observation
- Constellation Name
- Sky Conditions: transparency and seeing
- Sketch of stars visible to unaided eye, out to the boundary of the constellation.
- Include names of stars and other objects such as clusters, nebulae, galaxies.

Why Do It?

- Telescopes are “useless” if you don’t know where to find the stars, planets, deep sky objects.
- Low cost and time “fun” project in Astronomy.
- Go beyond the “main” constellations to learn the tough, non obvious constellations
- Continue gaining more certifications with LAS and the Astronomical League

Eight Month Proposed Plan

Or make up your own!!

- January: Cepheus, Lacerta, Pegasus, Andromeda, Aquarius
- February: Pisces, Cassiopeia, Triangulum, Aries, Perseus, Camelopardis
- March: Taurus, Auriga, Lynx, Orion, Canis Minor
- April: Monoceros, Cancer, Ursa Major, Leo Minor, Leo

Proposed Plan

- May: Sextans, Ursa Minor, Canes Venatici, Coma Bernices, Bootes
- June: Corona Borealis, Draco, Serpens Caput, Serpens Cauda
- July: Lyra, Hercules, Cygnus, Sagitta, Vulpecula
- August: Equuleus, Cancer, Aquila, Delphinus

Other Certifications To Work

- You should look at other “starter” certifications:
 - Lunar Club
 - Earth Orbiting Satellite Observing Club
 - Meteor Club
 - Binocular Messier Club
 - And others to check out as well.....
- <http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html#Introductory>