

The Moon Visits Regulus & Venus

At dusk on the evenings of **July 16-17**, a waxing crescent Moon appears to pass by the star Regulus and our neighboring planet Venus in the constellation Leo, the Lion. You will need a clear view low to the western horizon to catch this conjunction.

Regulus is the brightest star in the constellation Leo, and it is a main-sequence star like our Sun. It is a blue-white star that is twice as hot as our Sun, 240 times more luminous, and 3.5 times larger. Because Regulus lies along the ecliptic (the apparent path of the Sun, Moon and planets across our skies), it is frequently involved with lunar and planetary conjunctions like this one.

At just 85 million miles away (7.5 light minutes), Venus is positioned some 79 light years closer to us than the star Regulus.***

