

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)
August 2026 Sky Events

Just after sunset on the evenings of **August 15-17**, the waxing crescent Moon can be observed nearby the bright planet Venus in the constellation Virgo, the Virgin. Venus reaches greatest elongation east of the Sun along the ecliptic on August 15th.

Like our other interior solar system planet Mercury, Venus goes through phases (similar to our Moon) during its solar orbit, as seen from Earth. While you're observing a waxing crescent Moon on these nights, Venus is seen as a 48% illuminated waning crescent! Use a small telescope to easily discern Venus' waning crescent as it approaches inferior conjunction with the Sun on October 23rd.

[Illustration courtesy of SKY & TELESCOPE](#)

Conjunction of the Moon with Venus

