

Mobile Device Apps for Young Astronomers

Distant Suns (iOS, Android, Windows)

Distant Suns is also a point and locate app and has information on over 300,000 stars. It uses images from the Hubble Space Telescope and includes data and information on everything you observe. It also provides weather updates to know when the night sky view might be blocked by clouds.

Night Sky Lite (Android)

The Night Sky Lite is another point and locate app, but this one is free for Android devices. It uses the GPS and compass in your phone or tablet and pulls up an overlay map of the planets, stars, and galaxies in your location.

Planets (iOS)

A 3D guide to the solar system with planetarium style view of the sky. Shows times when planets are visible, and shows star locations during daytime.

Star Chart (iOS, Android, Windows)

Similar to Star Walk, but it's free. You can also manually set the location to see what the sky looks like from the other side of the planet. It displays stars and planets in real time and it includes a time shift feature that lets you see what the sky will look like 10,000 years into the past or future.

Star Walk App (iOS, Android, Windows)

All you have to do is point your phone at the night sky, and Star Walk locates and pinpoints the exact location of the celestial object you want to see. You can use the precise location to find the object in your telescope. You can access information about every celestial body that shows up in the app. It also includes a calendar of upcoming celestial events so you can plan your next stargaze.

Starmap2 (iOS)

The app gives you the "night's best selection" of stars, so you know what you should be looking for on any given night and it identifies shooting star zones. This app is also a point and locate that uses the iPhone's compass to identify the planets and stars right in front of you.