



CAROLINA SKIES

APRIL 2025



1.5 hours after sunset
early April 2025

Larger dots mark
brighter stars

To use your star chart, hold it over your head. To avoid ruining your night vision with a bright flashlight, use a red light. Or stretch a red balloon or brown paper bag over your flashlight for a muted glow.

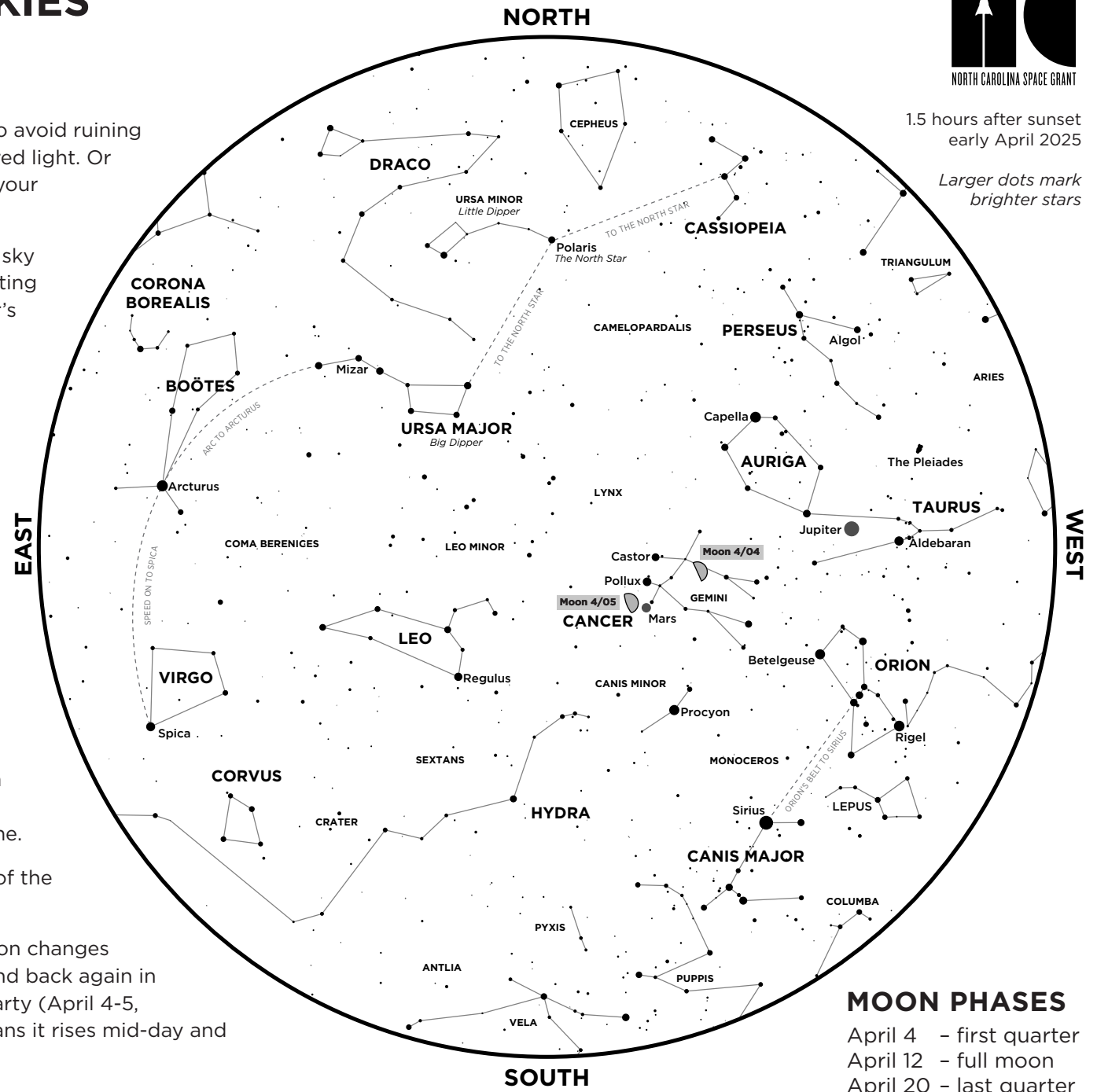
Align north on the chart with north in the night sky by finding Polaris, the North Star. Begin by locating the **Big Dipper**. Draw a line between the Dipper's "pointer stars" **to guide you to Polaris**, going about four and a half times the distance between the two pointer stars. The Dipper's handle "arcs" toward the orange star **Arcturus**, where you can "speed on to Spica" and then "curve on to Corvus."

The winter constellations Orion, Taurus, and Gemini are still visible in early spring in the west. Tracing a line through **Orion's belt** will lead you westward to **Aldebaran** (the orange "eye" of Taurus) or eastward to **Sirius** (the brightest star in the night sky).

These winter stars and constellations are followed across the sky by the spring patterns Leo, Ursa Major (which includes the Big Dipper), and Virgo. Find **Leo** the Lion just south of the Big Dipper by locating the backward question mark that outlines Leo's head and mane.

At nightfall, look for reddish **Mars** near the top of the sky and bright **Jupiter** in the west.

Where's the **Moon**? The Moon's apparent position changes as it goes through its phases from new to full and back again in about a "moonth." During the Statewide Star Party (April 4-5, 2025), the Moon is near first quarter, which means it rises mid-day and is high in the sky at sunset.



MOON PHASES
April 4 - first quarter
April 12 - full moon
April 20 - last quarter
April 27 - new moon