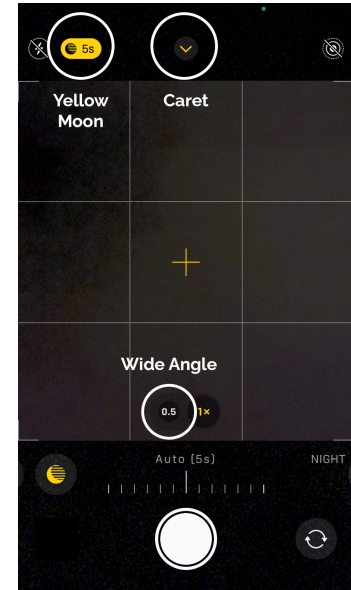# Two Easy Ways to Capture the Night Sky with an iPhone (11+)

1. IPHONE - NIGHT MODE

- Open the iPhone camera app; Night Mode is built in!
  It's an easy way to get good results without a lot of fuss.
- iOS 14-18 - when it's dark out, a yellow moon at the top left
  of the screen says Night Mode is on.
  (iOS 26 - tap the white moon at the top right)
- When you're ready to shoot, tap the shutter button.
  Hold still until the on-screen countdown finishes.

To experiment with Night Mode settings, tap the caret at the top of the screen, then tap the moon at the bottom.
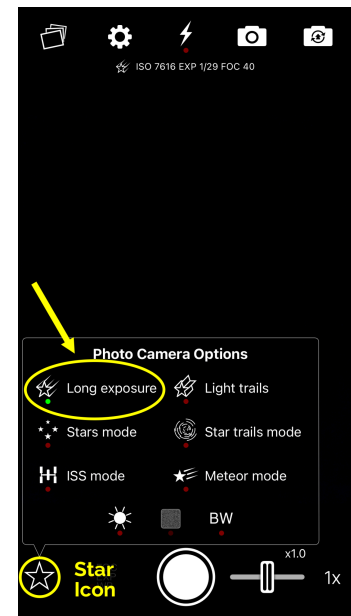
"0.5" at the bottom of the camera screen means your phone has a wide-angle lens. You can use it to capture more of the night sky.
A "2" or "3" means you can zoom in on the moon or some stars.

2. NIGHTCAP - LONG EXPOSURE

- Download and launch the **NightCap Camera** app ($2.99).
  It has lots of options, but we're only using one for now.
- Tap the star at the bottom of the screen for the "Photo
  Camera Options."
- Choose "Long Exposure" and tap the star again
  to return to the main screen.
- Tap the shutter button to start taking a picture. Watch the
  preview as your image builds. The app takes multiple shots
  and blends them into a single photo.
- Tap the shutter button again to finish.

To see your photo, tap the icon at the top left corner of the screen.
Tap "Done" to return. The photo saves with other pics on the phone.

STEADY!

When taking a long exposure, movement will blur the photo, so *keep the phone still*.
Lay it on a table, a rock, or the ground. Lean it against a book or bench to get the right angle.
And don't forget that the camera lens is on the *back* of the phone.

Use a **TRIPOD** for creative freedom. It lets you point the phone at any part of the sky you want.
Choose a tripod designed for a phone or attach a phone mount to a standard tripod.

Even with a tripod, pressing the button may shake the phone. You can trigger the shutter
with the volume button on a set of wired earphones - or a smartwatch - or a remote control.