CAROLINA SKIES APRIL 2019

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."

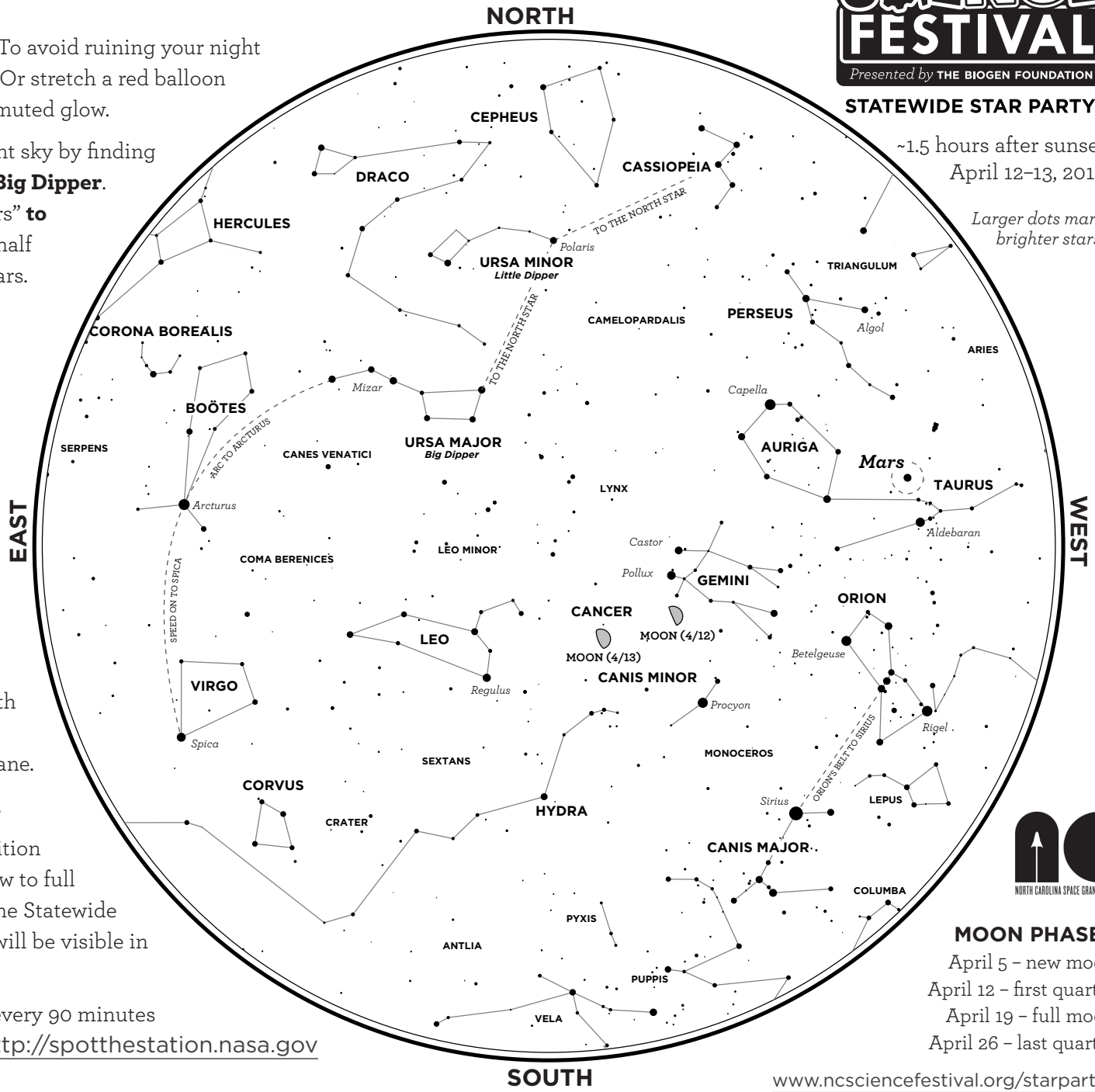
The winter constellations Orion, Taurus, and Gemini are still visible in early spring in the west. Tracing a line through **Orion's belt** will lead you westward to **Aldebaran** (the orange "eye" of Taurus) or eastward to **Sirius** (the brightest star in the night sky).

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.

Reddish **Mars** appears in the west at nightfall.

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 on April 12 and 13, 2019, the Moon will be visible in the afternoon and evening sky.

The International Space Station orbits Earth every 90 minutes at 17,000 mph. When can you see it? Check http://spotthestation.nasa.gov



Larger dots mark brighter stars.

SCIENCE FESTIVAL™
Presented by THE BIOGEN FOUNDATION

STATEWIDE STAR PARTY

~1.5 hours after sunset
April 12–13, 2019

NORTH CAROLINA SPACE GRANT

MOON PHASES

April 5 – new moon
April 12 – first quarter
April 19 – full moon
April 26 – last quarter

www.ncsciencefestival.org/starparty/

The Statewide Star Party is made possible by the generous grant support of North Carolina Space Grant.