

Astro checklist:

- Make sure you have a **fully charged battery, with backups**. Place a fresh battery in the camera and have a spare battery in your pocket to keep warm if in cold weather.
- Put a **formatted media card** in the camera to ensure that you have enough space.
- **Remove any filters**.
- Use **manual settings** and **manual focus**.
- Aim for an **aperture** of at least f/2.8 (if your lens doesn't have f/2.8, use the largest aperture available)
- Set **ISO** to 3200 and divide your focal length by 500 (example: if your full-frame equivalent focal length is 20mm, the 500 rule would suggest that you use a shutter speed of 25 seconds ($500 \div 20 = 25$). This is a great starting point.
- Set file type to **RAW** (which it should always be in for best results when editing).
- Set **white balance** to Kelvin temperature 3400 to 4400 or as desired.
- If your camera has a live view option use that to **focus** the lens by zooming in on your LCD screen to find a star and pull the focus.
- **Take a photo and review**.
- Use the **magnifier** on your LCD to make sure the stars are in focus.
- Check **histogram** to get a bright enough exposure to fill up to the second bar from the far left.
- **Check white balance** and adjust if desired.
- Make sure **your tripod is stable** and you are using **a timer or remote shutter** when shooting.
- **Don't forget to put the camera away and take it all in**.
- Keep in mind that you will achieve the best results in **dark sky** zones with little to **no moon** in the sky.