

Milky Way Photography for Beginners

Experience the beauty of the night sky and learn how to capture the Milky Way with your own camera under some of Arkansas's darkest skies at the 2026 Arkansas Dark Sky Festival. If you know the basics of your camera, this hands-on course will teach you everything else you need to photograph the night sky. No night photography experience required!

Each day includes a short classroom session followed by a guided field workshop, giving you the chance to apply what you've learned while photographing the Milky Way under the stars. Throughout the hands-on sessions, guidance will be available on camera settings, focusing, composition, and troubleshooting to help you capture your first successful night sky images.

Day 1 – Capture Your First Milky Way

The first session focuses on the fundamentals needed to successfully photograph the Milky Way.

Topics Include:

- Understanding when and where to photograph the Milky Way
 - Choosing the right equipment
 - Camera settings for night photography
 - Achieving sharp focus in the dark
 - Simple composition techniques
 - Preparing for the evening field session
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Day 2 – Beyond Your First Image

The second session builds on the previous night's experience and focuses on taking the next step.

Topics include:

- Review of images from the first night's session
- A quick demonstration of a simple Milky Way editing workflow
- Tips for improving future night sky photographs
- Questions and discussion

This is a two-part workshop. Day 1 covers the fundamental needed to photograph the Milky Way, while Day 2 builds on those concepts with image review, a simple editing demonstration, and ideas for taking the next step.

What to Bring

To participate in the evening field sessions, participants should bring:

- DSLR or mirrorless camera with manual exposure controls
 - A wide-angle lens (approximately 14mm to 24mm is ideal). A fast lens (f/2.8 or wider, such as f/2, f/1.8 or f/1.4) is recommended but not required.
 - A sturdy tripod
 - Fully charged batteries and an empty memory card
 - Headlamps or flashlight (red light preferred)
 - Weather-appropriate clothing for spending time outdoors at night.
 - A dew heater or chemical hand warmers (with rubber band) to prevent moisture from condensing on your lens, if the temperature drops below the dew point.
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Questions:

If you have any questions about the workshop or the equipment you'll need, feel free to contact Deepak at welostinplaces@yahoo.com.

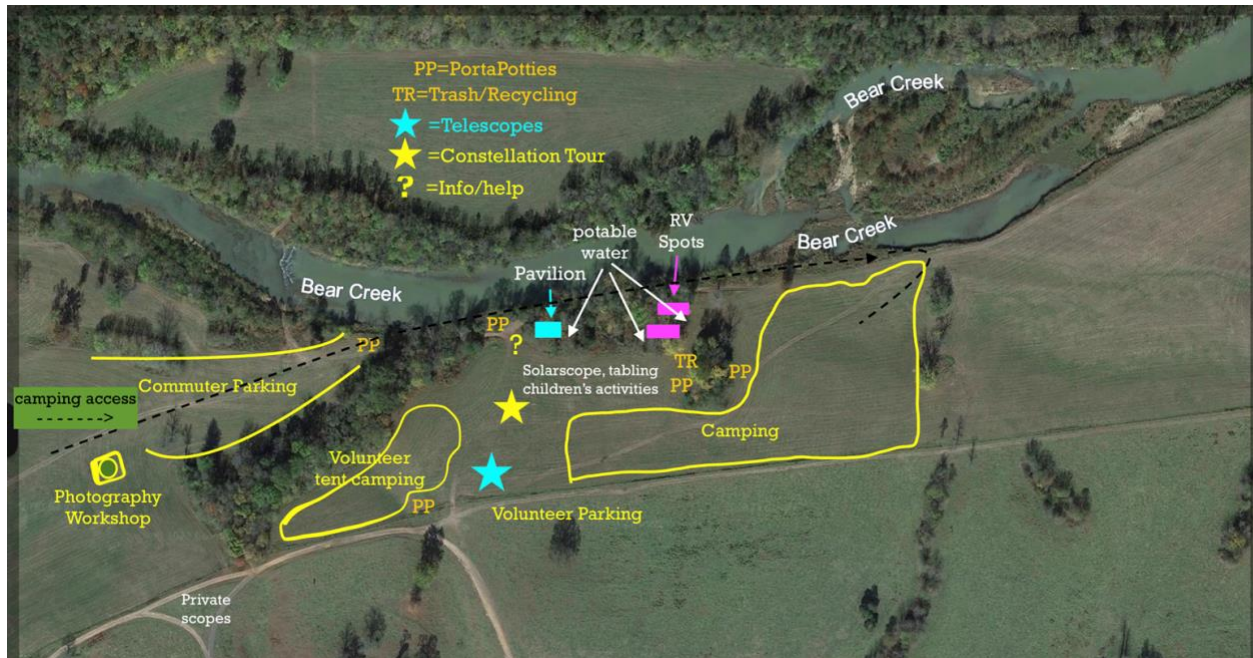
About the Instructor

Deepak is a self-taught photographer with a passion for astrophotography, as well as landscape, wildlife, and macro photography. He enjoys sharing the knowledge and techniques that shaped his own journey, believing that photography is best learned by doing and sharing experiences. His work has been recognized by many experienced astrophotographers, and he is passionate about helping others discover the beauty of the night sky.

Portfolio: www.welostinplaces.com

Facebook: [@welostinplaces](https://www.facebook.com/welostinplaces)

The lecture will take place at the pavilion. The field instruction will take place just west of the parking area, as indicated on the grounds map below.



Registration for the Milky Way workshop is limited to 25, so please only sign up if you are really interested and plan to attend. Here is the workshop [registration link](#).