

South Piedmont to Host Monthly Application Night

Prospective students can receive one-on-one admissions assistance

South Piedmont Community College will host an Application Night on the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., offering prospective students personalized assistance with the admissions process.

The event will be held at two locations: the Tech Commons in the Main Building on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe and the Garibaldi Building on the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton.

Designed for anyone considering college, returning to school or needing help completing an application, the event provides one-on-one guidance from college staff in a welcoming environment. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive assistance throughout the admissions process.

The first three applicants at each event will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card. In addition, everyone who attends will have a chance to spin a prize wheel for giveaways. "Application Night is more than just filling out an application - it's the first step toward your future," said Recruitment Specialist Maggie Essenmacher. "Whether you're planning a new career, continuing your education or exploring your options, our team will be there to provide one-on-one support throughout the process and help you get started with confidence. We're excited to welcome you into the Gator family!"

The Old Charlotte Highway Campus is located at 1851 S. Piedmont Street in Monroe, and the L.L. Polk Campus is located at 680 U.S. 74 in Polkton.

Advance registration is requested at events.spcc.edu.

July Brings History, Traditions and Summer Fun

Interesting facts about the seventh month of the year

The month of July is named in honor of the Roman dictator Julius Caesar (100 B.C. – 44 B.C.). Caesar introduced the Julian calendar, which later became the foundation for the Gregorian calendar used throughout much of the world today.

July 1 is Canada Day, the national holiday celebrating the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867. On July 3, the traditional Dog Days of Summer begin, bringing some of the hottest and most humid weather of the year.

Americans celebrate Independence Day on July 4, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It is a day filled with parades, cookouts, fireworks and patriotic displays, and a great reminder to proudly fly the American flag.

On July 14, France celebrates Bastille Day, commemorating the storming of the Bastille in 1789 and the beginning of the French Revolution.

The Full Buck Moon will occur on Wednesday, July 29, reaching peak illumination at 10:36 a.m. EDT. The moon receives its name because this is the time of year when the antlers of male deer, known as bucks, are in a period of rapid growth.

July's birth flowers are the larkspur and the water lily. White larkspurs symbolize lightheartedness, pink varieties represent fickleness, and purple blooms signify first love. The water lily has long been associated with purity of heart.

The birthstone for July is the ruby. Its name comes from the Latin word rubeus, meaning "red." Second only to the diamond in hardness, the ruby has long been prized as a symbol of love, passion, energy and success. Ancient warriors even believed the gemstone could provide protection when worn into battle.

The Dog Days of Summer Have Ancient Origins

Brightest star in the night sky gave the season its famous name

The Dog Days of Summer run each year from July 3 through August 11, bringing some of the hottest and most humid weather of the season. While many people associate the phrase with lazy afternoons, trips to the pool and dogs seeking a cool spot in the shade, its origins stretch back thousands of years to ancient astronomy.

The name comes from Sirius, known as the Dog Star, the brightest star in the night sky. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Major, or "Greater Dog." Ancient skywatchers observed that during this time of year, Sirius rose in the eastern sky just before sunrise, a phenomenon known as its heliacal rising.

The ancient Greeks believed the brilliant light of Sirius combined with the Sun's rays to make the weather even hotter. In fact, the name "Sirius" is derived from a Greek word meaning "scorching" or "glowing." Although modern science has shown the star has no effect on Earth's temperatures, the belief endured for centuries.

For the ancient Egyptians, Sirius held even greater importance. They called the star Sothis, and its appearance before dawn signaled the annual flooding of the Nile River. Those life-giving floods brought rich soil to farmland and marked the beginning of a new agricultural season, making Sirius one of the most important stars in the Egyptian calendar.

Over the centuries, the Dog Days became associated not only with extreme heat but also with drought, disease and general misfortune. Farmers and sailors often watched the season carefully, and many old sayings developed around this time of year. One popular rhyme declared:

"Dog Days bright and clear,
Indicate a happy year;
But when accompanied by rain,
For better times, our hopes are vain."

Today, the Dog Days of Summer still describe the hottest, most sweltering weeks of the Northern Hemisphere's summer. While the phrase now brings to mind backyard barbecues, vacations and slow summer afternoons, it also serves as a reminder of humanity's long fascination with the night sky and the traditions passed down through generations.



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