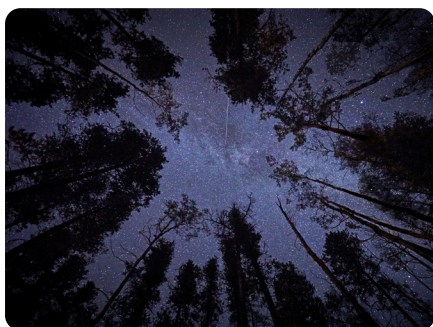


# Want to make nature images like Seth K. Hughes?

Here are the three key takeaways from his Create With Me video



1

## Plan ahead

Seth describes planning as the crucial first step in astrophotography. "If you put yourself in the right place at the right time, the majority of the work is done," he says.

Most importantly, you'll need to get out of the city and distance yourself from light pollution. This image demonstrates the type of easy-to-make frame that's out there waiting, when conditions are right. An ideal location should be within a few hours' drive – or you could choose to immerse yourself in the nature experience with a camping trip. There's no better way to spend a weekend than on the prairie, in the desert, or up a mountain.



2

## Find a foreground

Even though the highlight of your astrophotography image is bound to be the cosmos itself, it's still important to think about depth and context. As with any picture, you'll want to take the viewer on an interesting visual journey.

So, establish your frame with some pleasing foreground detail. Out in nature, you'll actually be spoiled for choice. A mountain range, a tree, a barn, or a section of landscape could all provide eye-catching results. Just remember, you don't want your foreground to be so interesting that it detracts from the night sky beyond. Simplicity is key here. And, of course, ensure that the whole frame remains in sharp focus.



3

## Experiment

As Seth quite rightly notes in his video, Create With Me – and photography more broadly – is all about trying new things and strengthening creative muscles. Well, the best way to learn is to make some mistakes. Framing, additional subjects, camera settings, and light painting are all great places to start with astrophotography.

In this gorgeous night scene, Seth used his X-T10's intervalometer and walked out into the frame with his flashlight. The result speaks for itself on many levels, but the addition of a human subject and its ability to accentuate the scale simply has to be noted. Perhaps you'll stumble upon an equally awe-inspiring perspective – either with some considered foresight, or by following your instincts entirely.

**Closing date for entries to Seth's Challenge:**  
**11:59PM EST July 31, 2022**

**View Seth's  
Challenge**

