

**"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."**

-William Arthur Ward



### Star Trails Over Oregon

Credit & Copyright: [Joshua Bury](#)

**Explanation:** As the Earth spins on its axis, the sky seems to rotate around us. This motion, called [diurnal motion](#), produces the beautiful concentric [trails](#) traced by stars during time exposures. Partial-circle star trails are [pictured above](#) over [Grants Pass, Oregon, USA](#) last month. Near the middle of the circles is the [North Celestial Pole](#) (NCP), easily identified as the point in the sky at the center of all the [star trail](#) arcs. The star [Polaris](#), commonly known as the [North Star](#), made the very short bright circle near the NCP. About 12,000 years ago, the bright star [Vega](#) was the [North Star](#), and in about 14,000 years, as the [Earth's spin](#) axis slowly continues to [precess](#), Vega will become the North Star again.

## munificent

\myoo-NIF-uh-sunt\



adjective

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### Meaning

\*1 : very liberal in giving or bestowing : lavish

2 : characterized by great liberality or generosity

### Example Sentence

At the banquet, the president of the city's performing arts center thanked all the munificent subscribers and sponsors who made the theatrical season a success.

▣

### Did you know?

"Munificent" was formed back in the late 1500s when English speakers, perhaps inspired by similar words such as "magnificent," altered the ending of "munificence." "Munificence" in turn comes from "munificus," the Latin word for "generous," which itself comes from "munus," a Latin noun that is variously translated as "gift," "duty," or "service." "Munus" has done a fine service to English by giving us other terms related to service or compensation, including "municipal" and "remunerate."

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

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Best Regards,

**Ron Van Alstyne**

**Ready, Willing & Able**

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