The Fifteen Brightest Stars Visible in U.S.A.

Name	Location	What to Remember
1. **Sirius** (SEER-ee-us)	Big Dog	The brightest star in the sky. It is white. Has white dwarf companion. 8.6 LY / 22 Suns / -1.6 Mag
2. **Arcturus** (ark-TOO-rus)	Herdsman	To find, follow "arc" of Big Dipper. Orange Giant. 36 LY / 110 Suns / 0 Mag
3. **Vega** (VA-ga)	Lyra	Most prominent of the summer Triangle. 27 LY / 50 Suns / 0 Mag
4. **Capella** (ka-PELL-la)	Charioteer	Slightly yellow-tinted. Nearly always above horizon. 42 LY / 130 Suns / 0 Mag
5. Rigel (RYE-jell)	Foot of Orion	Very distant Blue supergiant. One of highest energy stars on this list. 800 LY / 40,000 Suns / 0 Mag
6. Procyon (PRO-see-on)	Little Dog	Near to Sirius and 2nd closest on this list. Also has white dwarf companion. 11.4 LY / 7 Suns / .5 Mag
7. Betelgeuse (BETT-el-jooz)	Shoulder of Orion	Huge red supergiant, the size of the orbit of Mars. In Orion with Rigel and is on the celestial equator. 400 LY / 10,000 Suns / 1st Mag
8. Altair (al-TAIR)	Head of the Eagle	A white star in the summer Triangle. 17 LY / 11 Suns / 1st Mag
9. Aldebaran (al-DEB-a-ran)	Eye the Bull	A Red Giant near the ecliptic. 65 LY / 150 Suns / 1st Mag
10. Antares (an-TAIR-ees)	Heart of the Scorpion	A Red Supergiant near the ecliptic. 700 LY / 10,000 Suns / 1st Mag
11. Spica (SPY-ka)	Keep following arc past Acturus.	An obviously blue star just below the ecliptic. 270 LY / 2000 Suns / 1st Mag
12. Pollux (PAUL-uks)	Head of Twin nearest ecliptic	Orange Giant just above ecliptic. The other twin is Castor, which just missed being in top 15 (it's #17). 34 LY / 30 Suns / 1st Mag
13. Fomalhaut (FOAM-al-out)	Southern Fish	The inconspicuous “Fall” star, somewhat below the ecliptic. 25 LY / 15 Suns / 1st Mag
14. Deneb (DEN-ebb)	Tail of the Swan	Most distant star on this list and is one of the brightest stars in our galaxy. Most remote visible to the unaided eye. Is in the summer triangle. 3000 LY / 300,000 Suns / 1st Mag
15. Regulus (reg-YOU-lus)	Heart of the Lion	Star of spring. Bluish white through binoculars. almost exactly on ecliptic. 78 LY / 140 Suns / 1st Mag