



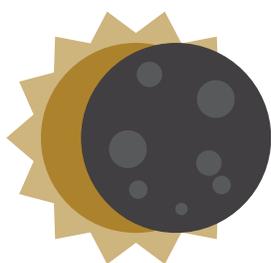
2.1 Million Pairs of Solar Eclipse Glasses were Distributed Free through Public Libraries in the U.S. for the Solar Eclipse Event on August 21, 2017

7,100 organizations, including public library branches, book-mobles, tribal libraries, library consortia, and state libraries, received a package of free safe-viewing glasses, plus a 24-page information booklet on how best to do public outreach programs about the eclipse. It is projected that **this library eclipse project allowed 6 million people to observe the event safely.**

The project was supported, in part, by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, with additional help from Google, NASA, and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This was the single largest distribution of free glasses in the entire country and reached more people with glasses and information than any other educational effort for the 2017 eclipse.

Libraries played a vital role in the success of the event. According to the American Library Association's Public Awareness Office, "it was one of the largest science events that libraries have participated in."



Participating libraries conducted around 35,000 science programs before and during the eclipse, reaching an estimated 1,750,000 people.

“We had one of the biggest events our Library has ever seen. So, in my language, we say Waewaenen (Thank You)!”

– Menomin Hawpetoss, Information and Training Specialist, Menominee County Library

Many libraries had a response like this from a library in Michigan:

“This event and your help attracted people who had never come to the library before, but more importantly, they got library cards, they checked out books, and they CAME BACK. This helped them see us for what we’ve become, not what we were when they were children.”

How It All Began

The eclipse project was conceived by three astronomers, Andrew Fraknoi (Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, California), Dennis Schatz (Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA), and Douglas Duncan (University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.) Together they brought the idea to Paul Dusenbery, Director of the Space Science Institute’s National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL), located in Boulder, Colorado. NCIL manages the STAR Library Network (STAR Net) (supported by NASA, NSF, and other organizations) to help libraries with STEM programming.

Visit www.starnetlibraries.org for more information!



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2017 Solar Eclipse Photos



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