

Two Million Free Eclipse Glasses Available to Public Libraries for the August 21 Eclipse of the Sun

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On August 21, 2017, a spectacular total eclipse of the Sun will be visible across the continental U.S. for the first time since 1918. The Space Science Institute (SSI) was awarded a grant from the *Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation* that will provide 1.26 million FREE eclipse glasses and other resources for 1,500 public libraries across the nation. The Research Corporation and Google will also be providing glasses and materials that add an additional 740,000 glasses, bringing the total to over 2 million glasses that will be distributed to more than 2,400 libraries! These libraries will serve as centers for eclipse education and viewing for their communities.

Attention!! April is the Last Month to Apply for Free Eclipse Glasses and Receive an Eclipse Education Kit!

You may have registered your interest for this event, but has your library submitted their official application? If you're not sure, please take a moment and visit our application site. If your library has not completed this online application, then your library is **NOT** done. *The deadline for submitting this application is May 1st, so don't delay!*

The Eclipse Education Kit (EEK) includes safe eclipse viewing glasses and educational materials to send to each participating library. Currently, over 1,900 libraries have registered on the *STAR_Net* website (<http://www.starnetlibraries.org/2017eclipse>). A map on the website shows the location of the registered libraries, including contact information. This will aid professional and amateur astronomers, Solar System Ambassadors, and others to easily find libraries to partner with. Education materials in the Kit will also be made available on the *STAR_Net's Eclipse Resource Center* website (<http://www.starnetlibraries.org/2017eclipse/eclipse-resource-center/>), so that even libraries and organizations that do not receive the EEK will get guidance on how to do public outreach before the eclipse, plus safe eclipse viewing techniques not dependent on having a pair of eclipse glasses. By engaging many library organizations, we will ensure that libraries throughout the country will be aware of the eclipse well in advance in order to plan a successful event.

The Space Science Institute (SSI) in Boulder, CO, through its *National Center for Interactive Learning*, provides STEM exhibits, programming, and training to hundreds of public libraries nationwide through *STAR_Net* and its *NASA@ My Library* project. Partners include the American Library Association, Lunar and Planetary Institute, the Afterschool Alliance, Cornerstones of Science, and many others. See <http://www.STARnetlibraries.org> for details.