Session 3 - Community Partners - Lessons Learned from 2017

Dr. Carmen Pantoja
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
April 9, 2022
August 21, 2017 was a partial eclipse in Puerto Rico. The unexpected happens: The partial eclipse inspired a modern dance performance.
Preliminary preparations for partial eclipse 2017

Preparation of College level students the semester before the eclipse

Student training in astronomy outreach during the semester with a model called “Starry Messengers”

Discussed several essays on science communication from book in Spanish: “Guía de Divulgación Científica” (2005)

Coordinated events in which students can practice their skills in public outreach:
- “Eratosthenes Project” with high school students (March 21, 2017).
- Exhibit of scale model of International Space Station on loan from NASA (month March 2017).

Students at UPR-RP: Starry Messengers
Preparation for children and teachers

This took place in class and during summer camps before the eclipse

Dr Gloria Isidro - Caribbean U.

Identify activities and lessons in Spanish. Use adapted materials for the visually impaired

Astronomy at Summer Camp at Caribbean University, June 2017
Preparation for public

Let people know where special public events will take place, inform about safe ways to view the eclipse. The amateur astronomers are very helpful with public talks, and promoting events in their web pages.

Algunas curiosidades de los Eclipses Solares

Dr. José L. Alonso
Astrónomo
Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey

Starry Messenger Meraris Tolentino local TV
Monday, August 21, 2017
Events at different locations

Grounds of Castillo San Felipe Del Morro, San Juan National Historic Site (credit Juan Luis Martinez, endi)

Amateur groups: Sociedad de Astronomía del Caribe
Amateur groups: Sociedad de Astronomía de Puerto Rico

The amateur groups had their members at different locations in Puerto Rico. This effort allowed more people to enjoy the eclipse in Puerto Rico.
Universities and Colleges organized public events

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras campus
At UPR-Rio Piedras a room was reserved for background orientation, safety measures for observations, NASA Live transmission, and distribution of materials
Events had the Support from:
- Society of Physics Students: “2017 Solar Eclipse Grant Program” donated 100 eclipse glasses
- NASA’s Kennedy Space Center: donated the Braille and tactile book “Getting a Feel for Eclipses”
- Physics and Physical Sciences students and professors helped as volunteers
El eclipse solar en la isla fue un evento único para educar y compartir

Escuelas, lugares de trabajo, áreas turísticas y centros de observación astronómica fueron el escenario al que acudieron miles de personas para aprender sobre un evento de la naturaleza

People and the press expressed their appreciation for the event

Next partial eclipses visible from Puerto Rico:

Saturday October 14, 2023 (~50% coverage)

Tuesday October 8, 2024 (~10% coverage)

Tuesday January 5, 2038 (~90% coverage)

Miles disfrutan del eclipse solar

El próximo eclipse solar parcial se observará en la isla el 14 de octubre de 2023

PUNTO DE VISTA

Durante el eclipse volvimos a ser gente

Aymer, el Departamento de Física y Química y el Laboratorio Multiusos de Ciencias Integrada (ISMul) de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Arecibo celebró el evento Conoce y Disfrutar del Eclipse 2017, auspiciado por NASA y Puerto Rico Space Grant.