

Introduction to the AAS Solar Eclipse Task Force

Rick Fienberg

(American Astronomical Society & Project Manager, SETF)

Claire Raftery

(National Solar Observatory & Co-Chair, SETF)

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (AAS)

- Established in 1899. (Celebrating 125th anniversary with total solar eclipse!)
- The major organization of professional astronomers in North America.
- ~8,000 members across the astronomical sciences.
- Mission: To enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe.
- Major activities: Publishing (journals, ebooks, *Sky & Telescope*), meeting organization, science advocacy, education and outreach, and training and professional development.
- Six topical divisions: Dynamical astronomy, high-energy astrophysics, laboratory astrophysics, planetary sciences, solar physics.

AAS SOLAR ECLIPSE TASK FORCE

- Formed in 2014 through 2017; renewed in 2020 through 2024.
- Purpose: To function as a think tank, coordinating body, and gateway to authoritative eclipse information and resources.
- Charter: To help prepare citizens of, and visitors to, the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to safely experience and enjoy the upcoming solar eclipses.
- Members: Professional astronomers, amateur astronomers, eclipse chasers, formal educators, informal educators & outreach specialists, doctors, journalists, artists, and experts in logistics & emergency management.

AAS SOLAR ECLIPSE TASK FORCE

Main activities ahead of the August 21, 2017, “Great American Eclipse”

- Annual planning workshops
- Website (eclipse.aas.org)
- Mini-grants program
- Encourage people to get into path of totality
- Promotion of eye safety



SOLAR ECLIPSE ACROSS AMERICA

Monday, April 8, 2024: Sun... Moon... You!



AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
National Science Foundation



ECLIPSE AMERICA ▾

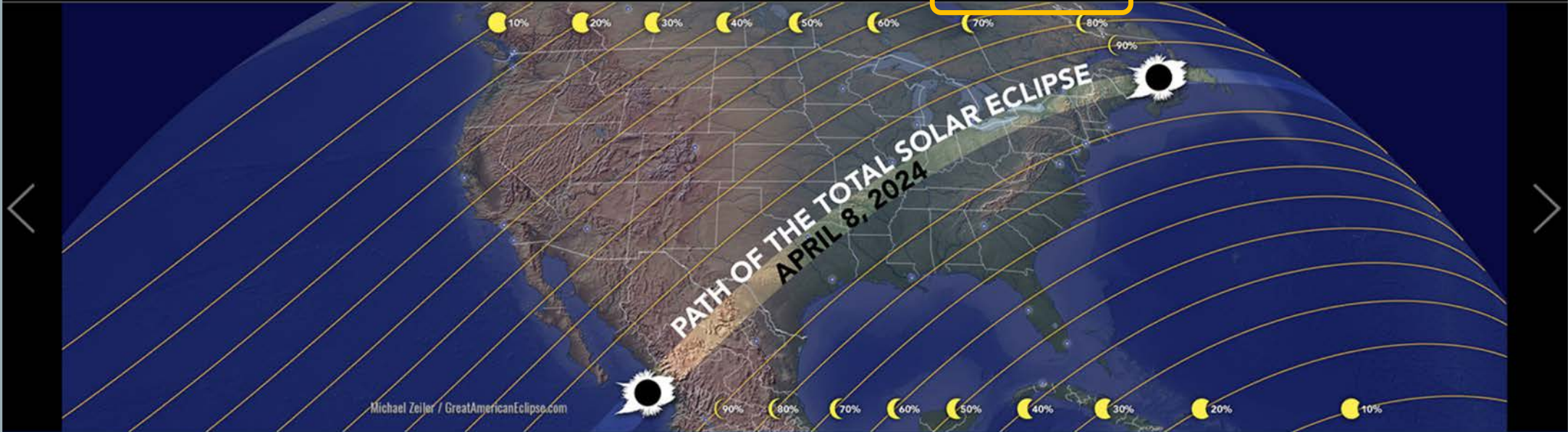
EYE SAFETY ▾

IMAGING & VIDEO ▾

RESOURCES ▾

SOLAR ECLIPSE TASK FORCE ▾

WORKSHOPS ▾



62

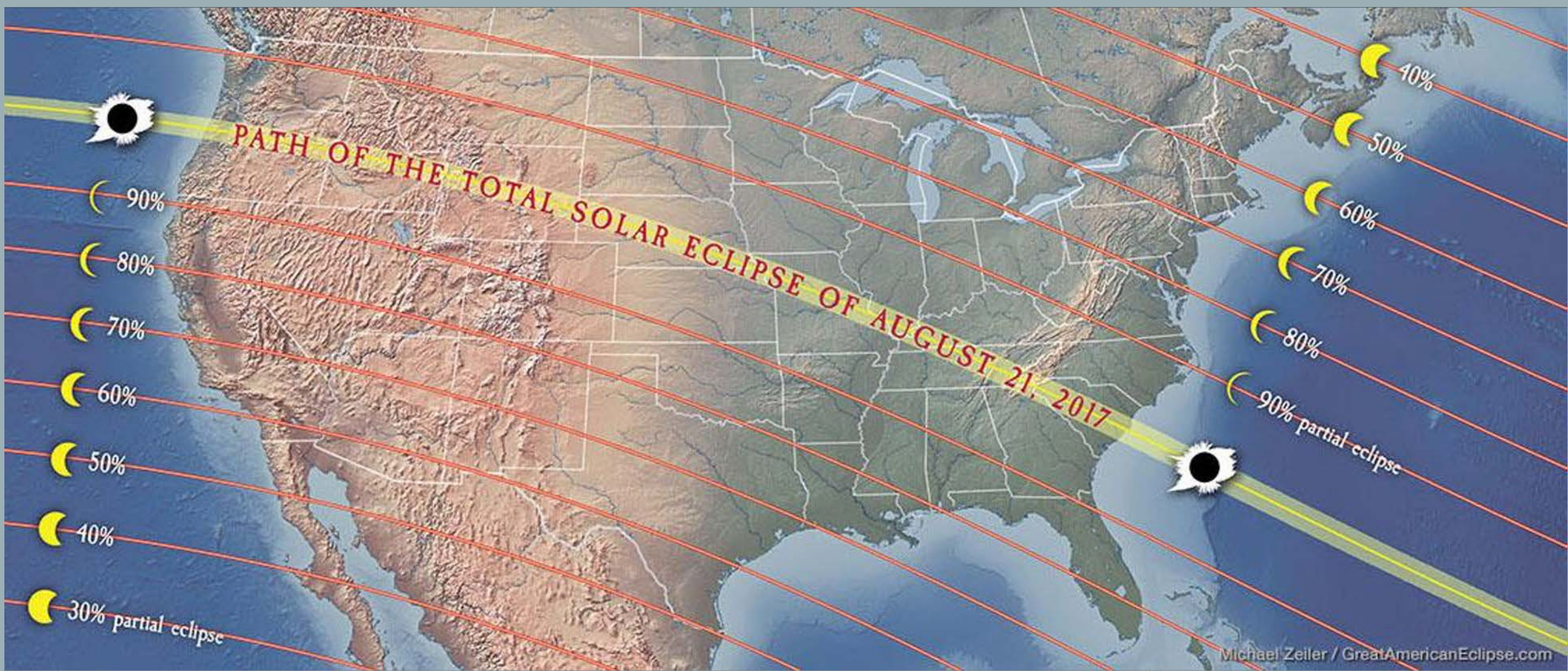
Days to Next U.S. Solar Eclipse

Three solar eclipses are coming to North America! On Thursday, June 10, 2021, Americans and Canadians northeast of a line running from central Alaska to the border between Georgia and South Carolina will have a partial eclipse at sunrise. On Saturday, October 14, 2023, an annular ("ring of fire") eclipse sweeps from Oregon to Texas in a 125-mile-wide path that continues to the Yucatán peninsula and South America. Six months later, on Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse darkens a 115-mile-wide swath from Mexico to the Canadian maritimes, traversing the U.S. from Texas to Maine in the process. In the last two cases all of North America will have at least a partial solar eclipse.

eclipse.aas.org



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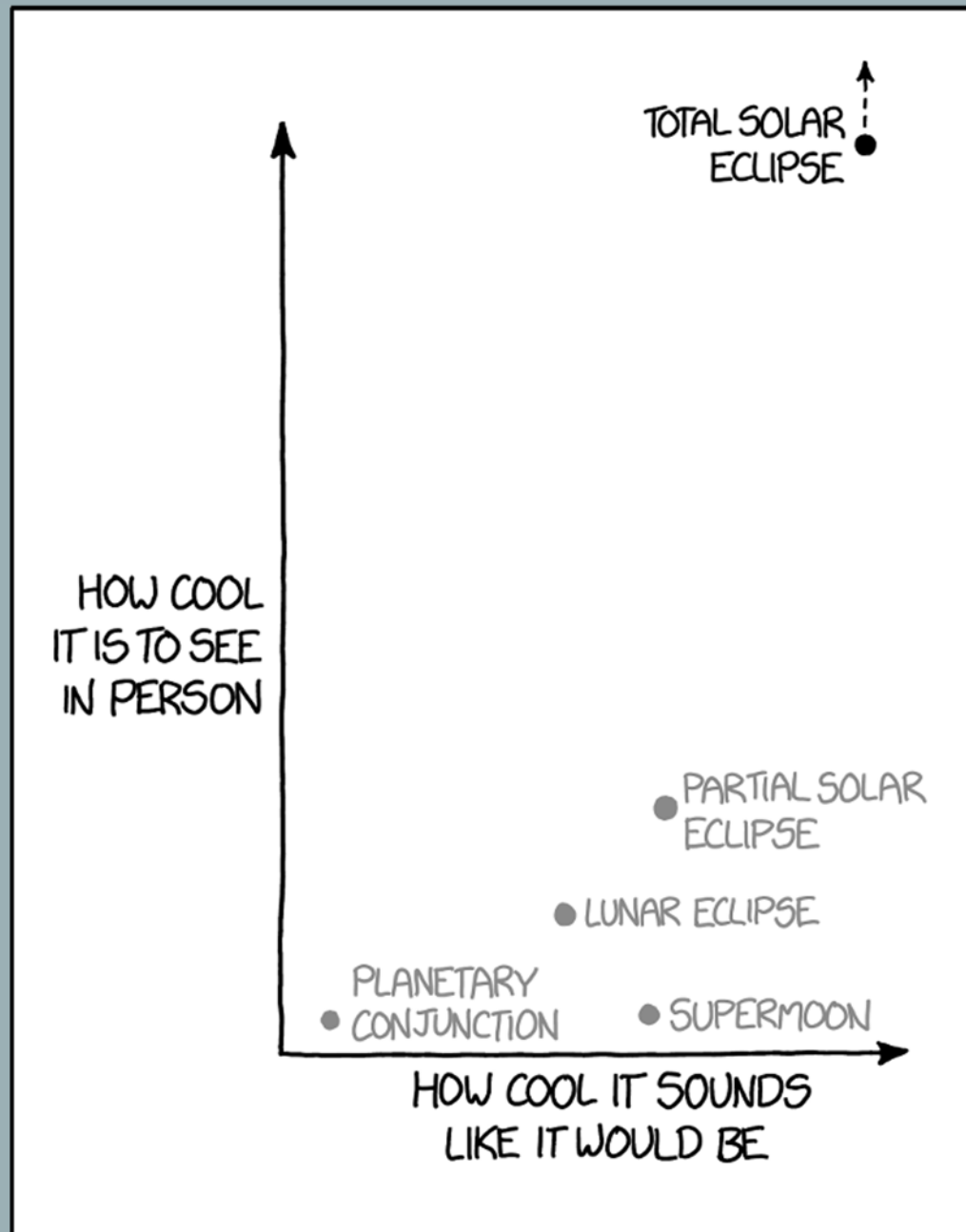
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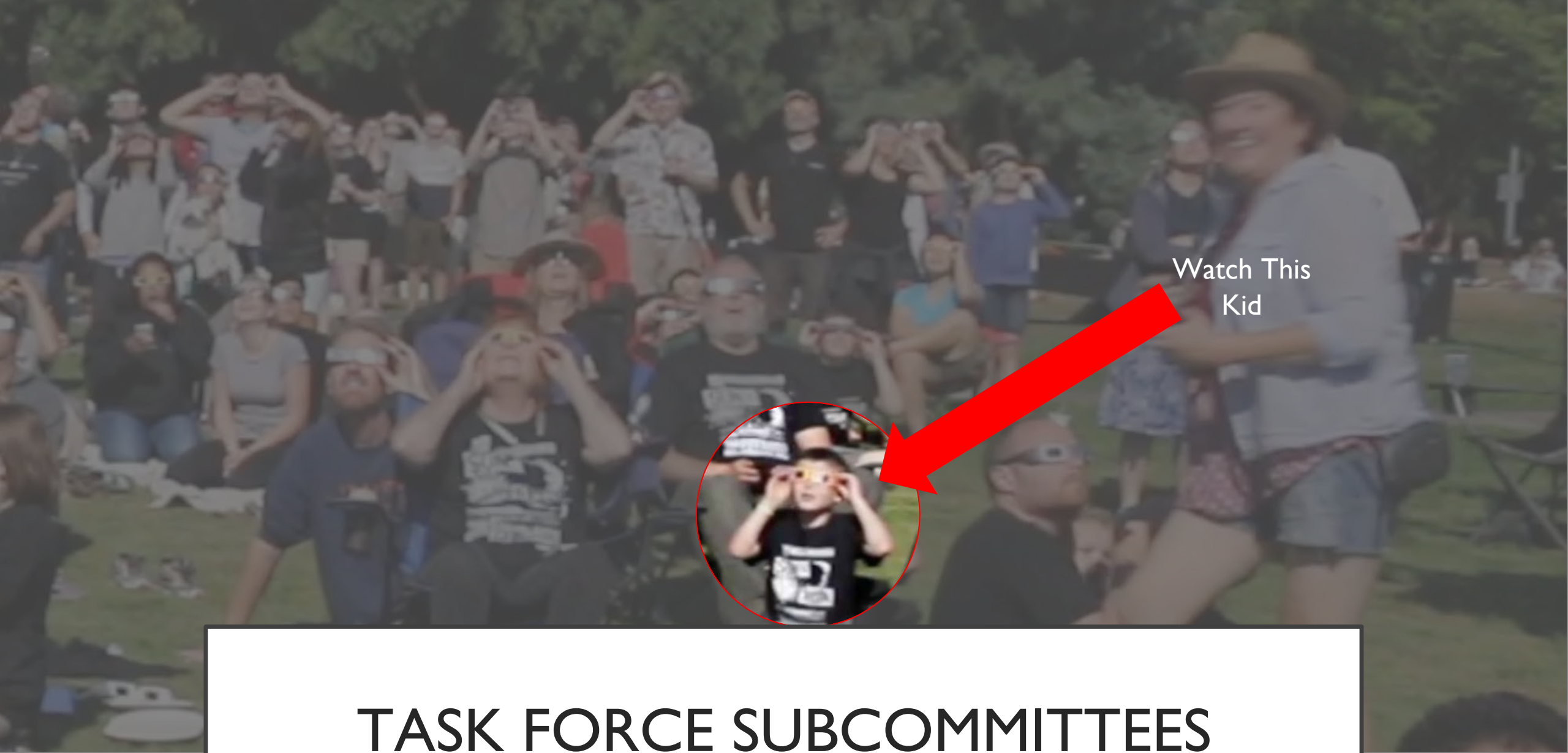
ONE MINUTE TILL
THE ECLIPSE!



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THREE BLIND MICE: THE EARLY DAYS





Watch This
Kid

TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES

TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Eye Safety
2. Web & Social Media
3. Local Planning
4. National Planning
5. Formal Education
6. Informal Education & Public Engagement
7. Media Relations

Each subcommittee is chaired by a member of the task force.

EYE SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Rick Fienberg (American Astronomical Society)

Purpose: To develop and distribute accurate information for the public on how to experience and record solar eclipses safely; to work with solar-filter manufacturers, resellers, and online marketplaces to ensure that the public has access to eclipse viewers that meet ISO safety standards; and to enlist the cooperation of the medical and eye-care communities in the dissemination of appropriate instructions for safe eclipse viewing.

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Michael Zeiler (GreatAmericanEclipse.com)

Purpose: To leverage the power of the web and social media to raise awareness of the upcoming North American solar eclipses, to encourage travel into the path of annularity on October 14, 2023, and/or totality on April 8, 2024, to disseminate and promote appropriate and accurate eclipse and eye-safety information, and to actively counter inappropriate or misleading information.

LOCAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Laurie Radow (U.S. Dept. of Transportation, retired)
Laura Peticolas (Sonoma State University)

Purpose: To work with local government officials; public safety, transportation, and emergency management professionals; convention and visitors bureaus; representatives of the hospitality industry; business leaders; and other stakeholders to prepare communities within the path of totality (April 2024) and/or annularity (October 2023) for an influx of visitors and a safe and enjoyable eclipse experience.

NATIONAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Alex Young (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center)

Purpose: To partner with federal agencies such as NASA, the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, the Departments of Energy, Commerce, and Transportation, and the national observatories to ensure that appropriate and coordinated preparations are made for the upcoming North American solar eclipses at the national level.

FORMAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Laura Peticolas (Sonoma State University)

Purpose: To connect with K-12 teachers, school superintendents, college and university instructors, administrators, and educational associations to prepare teachers, students, and their families to safely experience and enjoy the upcoming North American solar eclipses and to use these events to advance "STEAM" (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) education and appreciation.

INFORMAL EDUCATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Tyler Nordgren (Space Art Travel Bureau)

Purpose: To connect with parks, libraries, museums and planetariums, youth programs such as Scouts and 4-H, service clubs such as Rotary and Lions, after-school programs, amateur astronomers and astronomy clubs, and other organizations and programs that inform, educate, and engage the public for the purpose of sharing eclipse-related information and activities with diverse audiences.

MEDIA RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Pamela Gay (Planetary Science Institute)

Purpose: To partner with science writers, editors, and producers; broadcast meteorologists; traffic and general-assignment reporters; and others in traditional and new media to promote awareness of the upcoming North American solar eclipses, to disseminate appropriate and accurate eye-safety information, and to counter inappropriate or misleading information being promoted online or elsewhere.



**WE NEED
YOU!**

**Volunteer for one (or more) of our
task force subcommittees:**

- Participate in active planning and preparation for the 2023/2024 eclipses
- Connect with counterparts elsewhere
- Join the task force Slack channel

eclipse.aas.org/about-us/subcommittees/application



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- TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES
- APPLY TO JOIN A SUBCOMMITTEE



62

Days to Next U.S. Solar Eclipse

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ECLIPSE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

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First workshop for 2023-24:

- June 2019, St. Louis, Missouri

Second workshop:

- This one! (April 2021)

Third workshop onwards:

- Resume annual in-person gatherings!

ECLIPSE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Seeking workshop hosts!

- Organizations and institutions willing and able to host them.
- Examples: Science museums and planetariums, colleges and universities, and other institutions engaged in, or supporting, science education and/or public outreach.
- Encourage partnerships among multiple organizations within the same city or region to propose together.

PREFERENCES FOR WORKSHOP HOSTS

Prefer (*but not required*):

- Venues within the 2023 path of annularity and/or the 2024 path of totality.
- Schedule around pre-anniversary dates of the eclipses, i.e., early April or mid-October, but we're open to other times of the year for compelling reasons.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKSHOP HOSTS

- Meeting space for up to 125 attendees in plenary sessions and smaller spaces for multiple simultaneous breakout sessions.
- Proximity to an airport (preferably a major one), as people will attend from all over the U.S. and, we hope, from Canada and Mexico too.
- Availability of convenient, comfortable, and reasonably priced hotel/motel accommodations nearby.
- Broadband internet service with free wireless connectivity for attendees and support for live-streaming and recording of workshop content.



SUBMIT A
PROPOSAL

Deadline: June 11, 2021

eclipse.aas.org/workshops/proposal-form



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VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: APRIL 9-10, 2021

CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO HOST A WORKSHOP

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO HOST A WORKSHOP



Mark Margolis / Rainbow Symphony

62

Days to Next U.S.
Solar Eclipse

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QUESTIONS?