

PUNCH Public Engagement

Monthly Newsletter Issue 17: Mar 2024

Shining New Light on Diverse Views of the Sun
with our Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching Theme

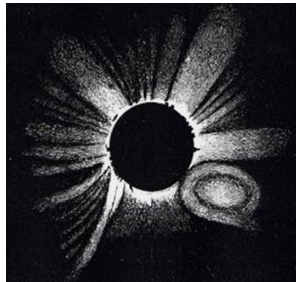


Did You Know....

...that the 2024 total solar eclipse occurred at a time of high solar activity? Ancestral Pueblo people in Chaco Canyon may have observed and recorded their impression of a “stormy” solar corona during the [1097 total solar eclipse](#). Check out our [new short video](#) that tells this story. Guglielmo Tempel perceived and drew an oval-like feature during the 1860 eclipse that was [interpreted as a CME](#) (solar storm) more than 100 years later. There was no CME during the recent total solar eclipse, but there was a beautiful naked-eye prominence that [some news outlets](#) wrongly reported as a solar flare.



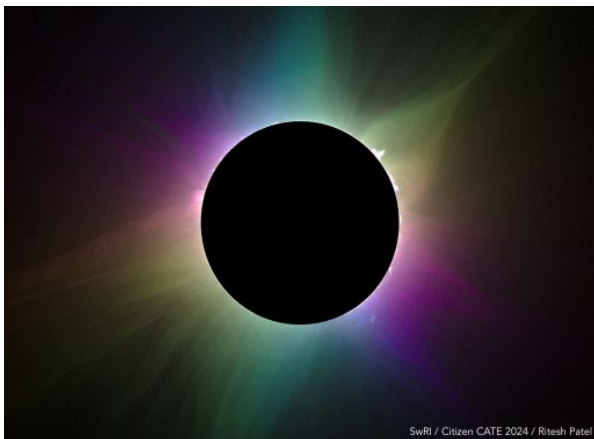
Photo: PUNCH Outreach



Drawing: G. Tempel

PUNCH Outreach Collaborates w/ Citizen CATE 2024

PUNCH Outreach shipped [3-Hole-PUNCH pinhole projectors](#) and PUNCH-branded polarized sunglasses to support all 35+ [Citizen CATE 2024](#) teams deployed all along the path of totality. The PUNCH spacecraft and Citizen CATE 2024 ground-based telescopes all observe the solar corona using polarized light to detect changes in structure. If you were lucky enough to see totality and understood clearly when it was safe to look, perhaps you spent a few seconds rotating your polarized sunglasses to detect for yourself any changes in brightness or structure of the solar corona! See our [new resources about polarized light](#).



SwRI / Citizen CATE 2024 / Ritesh Patel

SwRI/Citizen CATE 2024/Ritesh Patel

PUNCH Contributes to Eclipse Events Nationwide

PUNCH contributed to eclipse events throughout the nation, deploying scientists and outreach professionals, and disseminating our outreach products far and wide. Be sure to use #PUNCHView as you post any pictures of PUNCH Outreach products in action! Our PI and Outreach Director presented at the [Cotton Bowl](#) in Dallas Texas where we debuted our [new short video](#) about Chaco's Rock of the Sun. Across town, our Mission Scientist covered the [TESS meeting](#) and [appeared on national TV](#). Two early career scientists staffed the NASA booth at the [Dallas Arboretum](#), and we sent people and Projectors to events in western San Antonio. More than 300,000 projectors have been disseminated in support of eclipse events. These include high-leverage opportunities in Mazatlan (Mexico), Waco (TX), Carbondale (IL), Choctaw Nation (OK), and Louisville (KY). We are also grateful to other dissemination partners: The [Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#) has disseminated our products to all 50 states; and the Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society has published an [article](#) about our products.

Your Solar Photo of the Month

Every month we feature a photo submitted by readers that portrays a personal experience of the Sun or PUNCH.



Troy Cline, Outreach Coordinator for [Parker Solar Probe](#), demonstrates the 3-Hole-PUNCH pinhole projector (off-air) during the 2023 Annular Solar Eclipse [Exploratorium Broadcast](#) in the Valley of the Gods, Utah. The [Spanish-language broadcast](#) included an on-air demo. Parker and PUNCH outreach programs are collaborating for [Heliophysics Big Year](#) and beyond. This includes the [Parker close-fly-by](#) this December, and the PUNCH launch a year from now! There's MUCH more to come beyond the eclipses!

Visit punch.space.swri.edu for more about the NASA PUNCH mission and its [Outreach program](#). For questions or photo submissions: Outreach Deputy Program Manager (jtrump@slco.org) & Outreach Director (cherilynn.morrow@gmail.com). [View the Newsletter Archive](#).