

PUNCH Public Engagement Monthly Newsletter Issue 1: Nov 2022

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



Did you Know?

Every second, over 300,000 tons of material leave the Sun and streak outward into space. This “solar wind” impacts everything in the Solar System, including Earth. It causes the beautiful auroral lights and also makes the “space weather” that can harm satellites and astronauts in space. PUNCH is a NASA mission that will enable us to track the solar wind continuously from the Sun’s outermost atmosphere (the corona) all the way to Earth orbit, for the first time ever!

PUNCH Team Supports *Science Friday’s* “Sun Camp”



Members of the PUNCH science and outreach teams supported Weeks 3 and 4 of *Science Friday’s* 5-week virtual “Sun Camp” for young children (ages 5-9) and their families. Dr. Cherilynn Morrow, Mr. Joe Aragon, and Dr. Nicki Viall were featured “Q & A Guests” on [November 2nd](#) to address the question: Why is the Sun Important to Earth? PUNCH Principal Investigator (PI), Dr. Craig DeForest was featured on [November 9th](#) for a Q & A session about “Space Weather.”

3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector going to Print

We have completed field testing of our first prototype pinhole projector and are planning to print 750 copies for release at the December 2022 conferences of the American Geophysical Union and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

This projector is 6 inches tall and is printed on cardstock with 3 die cut openings. It offers the fun of forming round solar images through triangular and square-shaped holes! Info on the back and a QR Code lead to more insight about how it works. Contact us if you want to include these in your own outreach efforts!



Celebrating Our First “In-Person” Team Meeting in NM

The PUNCH Outreach team met at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and in [Chaco Canyon](#) for team building, planning, and professional development (Sep 26-30). We field-tested activities and continued to learn from our collaborators (Scientists, Girl Scouts, Blind & Low-Vision learners, Native Americans, and Hispanics) how to make our multi-sensory, multicultural outreach products of greatest benefit to ALL people. In the photo above, Craig DeForest (PUNCH PI) tests our activity called “Seeing with Your Hands” as he explores blindly one of our thermoform tactile art representations of the Sun’s corona. Click [here](#) for more info.

Readers’ Solar Image of the Month

Each month we’ll feature an image & caption submitted by you, the reader, that portrays a personal experience of the Sun. Perhaps it is seeing an intriguing light & shadow pattern, an epic sunrise, or a rainbow. Or maybe it’s the scent of bread baking in a solar oven. Be creative using all of your senses!



The morning Sun casts shadows of our Outreach team on the west wall of the largest excavated Great Kiva in the Chaco Canyon region. We had just observed the sunrise using solar viewing filters and also using our hands to “feel” and locate the Sun in solidarity with our Blind and Low-Vision advisor.