

PUNCH Public Engagement Monthly Newsletter

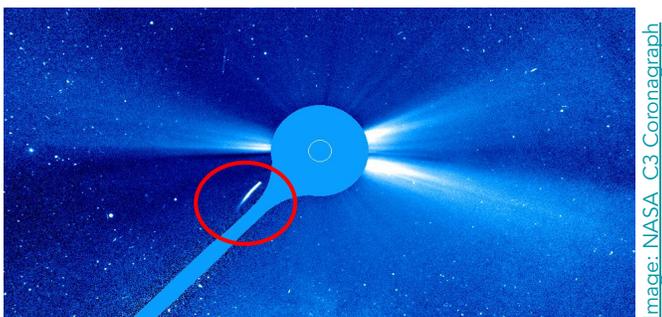
Issue 4: Feb 2023

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



Did You Know....

...that the PUNCH mission will see comets? One of the PUNCH instruments (NFI - "niffy") has a field of view similar to the NASA SOHO coronagraph image shown below, yet will have about 100x more sensitivity to comets. Comets' tails are directed by the [solar wind](#). They are like *solar wind* socks!



PUNCH Outreach Providing Experiences at June AAS

PUNCH Outreach is planning to have a big presence at and around the American Astronomical Society conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this summer:

June 3-4: a pre-conference experience for those active in Sun-related outreach events during the [Heliophysics Big Year](#) and beyond. The 2-day event includes visits to Chaco Canyon, the NM Museum of Natural History & Science, and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and is a reprise of key elements of our [Annual Retreat](#) in September 2022.

June 4-8: an evening public event during the conference week on scientific, historical, cultural, and personal perspectives on solar eclipses – a collaboration between the AAS Eclipse Task Force and PUNCH Outreach.

Evaluating Our Prototype Girl Scout Patch

This spring we are excited to evaluate our prototype *Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching* Girl Scout patch. New collaborations with troops in Maryland and Colorado, plus existing partnerships with Councils in New Mexico and Texas have led to robust opportunities to evaluate our novel patch-earning activities. We plan to release a final patch in Fall 2023. Please [sign up here](#) to be notified when our PUNCH Outreach products and activities become broadly available!



Illuminating the PUNCH Outreach Logo



Left: a hand-sized petroglyph carved into sandstone located in Chaco Canyon, NM. This may be an Ancestral Puebloan impression of the 1097 total solar eclipse which occurred at a time of maximum solar activity. See Scientific American [article](#).

Center: a contemporary ground-based image of an eclipse during the last solar maximum (2013). We are entering a new period of maximum solar activity (2023-2026) during which a total solar eclipse occurs over the US in 2024.

Right: The PUNCH Outreach logo represents our *Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching* theme. It is a composite of the Chaco petroglyph and a rotated version of the 2013 image by Emmanoulidis & Druckmüller from Gabon (linked above).

Your Solar Photo of the Month

Every month we feature a photo [submitted by readers](#) that portrays a personal experience of the Sun. Get creative and multi-sensory! See the bottom of page for submission info.



Photo by Briana Ingermann

After noticing the compelling shadow of our spiral staircase, my partner and I felt inspired to play with the sunlight.