

PUNCH Public Engagement Monthly Newsletter Issue 15: Jan 2024

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



Did You Know....

...that the Latin word “sol” is the main adjective used to refer to our Sun? Sometimes, like in the case of heliophysics, the root “helios” is used, which references the Sun god in ancient Greek mythology. Even the word “helium” contains the root “helios” because it was in the Sun’s corona that helium was first detected, before it was discovered on Earth!

PUNCH Outreach Partners with Kenner Planetarium

PUNCH Outreach helped to organize a public engagement event at [Kenner Planetarium](#) in collaboration with the American Astronomical Society’s (AAS) [Education Committee](#) just prior to the week of the winter conference in New Orleans, LA (7-11 Jan). The public outreach event attracted about 300 participants. Prior to the event, we trained four AAS members on a suite of our PUNCH Outreach activities which they then helped us to facilitate throughout the 4-hour public event. Shown in the photo below: Emmy Wisz, August Muller, Daniel Horenstein, Cherilynn Morrow, Danielle Rowland, Sanlyn Buxner.

ECLIPSE
Preparation Party!
Sat. January 6, 2024
starting @ 11 AM
Free Admission
Kenner Planetarium in Rivertown
2020 Fourth Street, Kenner, LA

- ❖ Science activities provided by members of the American Astronomical Society and the NASA PUNCH Outreach Team from 11-3 pm
- ❖ Guest speaker presentations at 11:30 am & 1:30 pm
- ❖ Planetarium show “Totality!” at 12:30 pm & 2:30 pm
- ❖ Solar telescope viewing with the Pontchartrain Astronomy Society from 11-3 pm

Logos for American Astronomical Society, Kenner Planetarium, and PUNCH.

Poster design by Jason Trump



Photo by a helpful member of Kenner staff

National Dissemination of Thermoform Tactiles

In January, PUNCH Outreach delivered 500 sets of seven thermoform tactile-art graphics of the solar corona to the [Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#) for distribution to their national networks. The tactiles represent ways humans have recorded the solar corona from the Chaco petroglyph to a NASA coronagraph. The photo at lower-right represents Tempel’s hand drawing of the 1860 total solar eclipse. We created these tactiles with (and for) blind learners, yet they also offer multi-sensory, synesthetic experience for sighted learners via our activity called [Seeing with Your Hands](#).



Photos: J. Keller & C. Morrow
Tactile art by Nicole Johnson

We Invite You to Request PUNCH Outreach Materials!

If you would like a supply of our 3-Hole-PUNCH Pinhole Projectors to support your outreach event(s), please fill out the form [here](#). PUNCH team members please use [this form](#).

Your Solar Photo of the Month

Every month we feature a photo [submitted by readers](#) that portrays a personal experience of the Sun.



Photo by Cherilynn Morrow

The reflected sunlight on grandmother and the faces of the children listening to grandfather’s stories inspired this photo of the sculptures at the Tamaya Resort on the Santa Ana Pueblo.