

# SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017

A total solar eclipse—when the moon completely covers the sun—will be visible from coast to coast on August 21, 2017. This amazing event lasts only about 2 minutes and is safe to watch, but the partial eclipse that happens before and after can permanently damage your vision.

## ***IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO USE PROPER EYE PROTECTION FOR SAFE VIEWING!***

The only way to look directly at the sun when it's not eclipsed or is only partly eclipsed is with a special ISO 12312-2 safety standard compliant solar filter, such as eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer. Goggles, homemade filters, or sunglasses, even very dark ones, will not protect your eyes. Also, always avoid looking at the sun through an unfiltered camera, smartphone, telescope, or any other optical device. Even if your eclipse glasses meet the safety standards, don't use them if the lenses are scratched, wrinkled or are older than 3 years.

- ✚ Always supervise children using solar filters.
- ✚ Stand still and cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking up at the bright sun. After looking at the sun, turn away and remove your filter — do not remove it while looking at the sun.
- ✚ Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.
- ✚ Similarly, do not look at the sun through a camera, a telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or hand-held solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eye(s), causing serious injury.
- ✚ Outside the path of totality, you must *always* use a safe solar filter to view the sun directly.
- ✚ If you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on. Put your eclipse glasses on over them, or hold your handheld viewer in front of them.

Looking directly at the sun without the correct eye protection, even for a short time, can cause permanent damage to your retinas, a light-sensitive part of the eye that transmits what you see to your brain. Damage can occur without pain, and it can take a few hours or even a few days after viewing the eclipse to have symptoms of damage, which include not being able to see colors as well and loss of central vision, with only side vision remaining. If you notice any symptoms after viewing the solar eclipse, seek immediate help from your eye care professional.

A solar eclipse is one of nature's grandest spectacles. By following these simple rules, you can safely enjoy the view and be rewarded with memories to last a lifetime.

The above information was adapted from guidance provided by NASA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the following websites. Please take some time to review the detailed information found at:

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/solar-eclipse-safety/index.html>

<https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>



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