



IN THE PATH OF TOTALITY ON MAIN STREET:

A RESOURCE GUIDE



About the Resource Guide

This resource guide was created by Main Street America and brought to you in partnership with the Simons Foundation through the 'In the Path of Totality' initiative. Through this initiative, the Simons Foundation is committed to help ensure that the millions of people in the path of totality for the upcoming total solar eclipse have an unforgettable experience. The Sun and the Moon will do most of the work, and the communities that make up the towns in the path will do much of the rest. Each place will celebrate in a way only they can. Whatever the setting, the Simons Foundation is working to provide a support system and connect places whenever possible. To learn more about the 'In the Path of Totality' initiative, [visit inthehalloftotality.org](https://inthehalloftotality.org).

The Simons Foundation in partnership with Main Street America awarded grants to Main Street communities In the Path of Totality to create meaningful and memorable experiences for residents as they host visitors for the total solar eclipse. The program is intentionally designed for Main Street communities to actively engage their residents in science as part of their community programming and it offers an opportunity for the selected communities to directly connect with others across the country in the path of totality. From Texas to Maine, 15 Main Streets have been selected for the grant program. [To learn about the grantees, visit this website.](#)

Whether your community is in the path of totality or set to experience a partial eclipse, this resource guide is intended to provide all Main Street communities with tools, information, education, and more as you prepare for events, activities, and promotions leading up to and during the Great North America Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024.

If you have questions or need assistance connecting to a resource, please contact us at halloftotality@mainstreet.org.



In partnership with





Table of Contents

Resources for Preparing for the Eclipse.....	4
Science Event Planning Tips for Main Streets.....	6
Resources for Engaging with Science.....	8
Sources.....	9
About Our Sponsor.....	10

Resources for Preparing for the Eclipse

Accessing Eclipse Glasses

- [See a list of safe, verified suppliers of eclipse glasses](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*) These products were listed based on their meeting certain requirements of the [ISO 12312-2 international standard](#).
- [Register for free eclipse glasses for your public library](#) (*Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries*)

Safety

- [General safety during a total solar eclipse](#) (*NASA*)
- [Learn how to view a solar eclipse safely](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)

General Education

- [What to expect for a total solar eclipse](#) (*NASA*)
- [Learn about the 2024 total solar eclipse](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)
- [How and why solar eclipses happen](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)
- [Infographics and general guide to the total solar eclipse](#) (*TimeAndDate.com*)
- [Solar eclipses for beginners](#) (*Mr. Eclipse*)
- [Eclipse basics](#) (*Great American Eclipse*)
- [Find eclipses in popular fiction, music, art, and film](#) (*Andrew Franknoi*)

Planning Events & Activities

- [Take a virtual training about how to explore citizen science leading up to and during the eclipse](#) (*Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries*)
- [Find Eclipse Activity Ideas](#) (*Science-Technology Activities & Resources for Libraries, STEM Activity Clearinghouse*)
- [Guide to building a sun funnel](#) (*American Astronomical Society, Nightwise.org, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*)
- [Guide to planning eclipse events](#) (*Astronomical Society of the Pacific*)
- [Community solar eclipse planning guide](#) (*Being in the Shadow*)

- [Total Solar Eclipse Planning Toolkit](#) (*Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement*)
- [Eclipse Activities Resource](#) (*Space Science Institute*)
- [Learn about other eclipse events around the country](#) (*The Eclipse Company*)
- [Portal to the past: Make your own eclipse history exhibit](#) (*StarNet*)
- [Learn how to make your own 3-hole punch pinhole projectors](#) (*PUNCH Outreach Team: Southwest Research Institute, US Naval Research Laboratory, RAL Space, NASA*)

Marketing & Communications

- [Gallery of downloadable graphics, flyers, and images](#) (*NASA*)
- [Royalty-free images and videos](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)
- [Downloadable save the date postcards](#) (*NASA*)
- [List your eclipse event on a national database](#) (*The Eclipse Company*)

Tools & Products

- [Eclipse apps and software](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)
- [Maps, globes, and calculators](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)
- [Telescopes and binoculars](#) (*American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA*)

Connect with Scientists

- [Connect with a Solar System Scientist Near You](#) (*NASA*)
- [Ask an Astronomer](#) (*NASA*)
- [Join the American Astronomical Society \(AAS\) email list to receive information about upcoming eclipse-planning workshops and other essential eclipse news](#) (*American Astronomical Society*)

Science Event Planning Tips from Main Streets

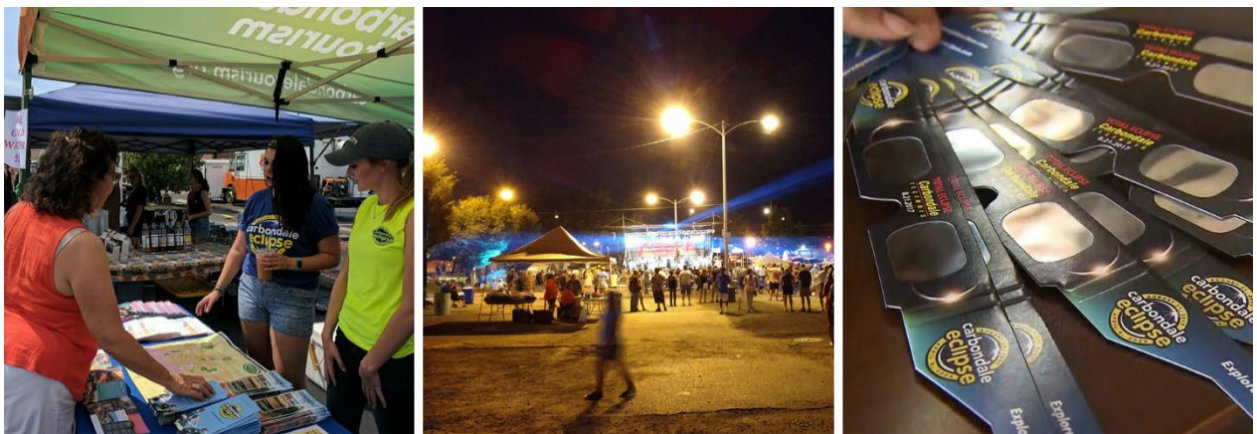
Sweetwater, Tennessee | “Science on Main Street: Totality in the Valley”



Sweetwater’s visitors on Main Street during partial eclipse phase. Photo by: Tony Cox of WMTY 98.3 in Sweetwater TN

Sweetwater, Tenn., a city of 6,000 people, hosted an estimated 50,000 people for the 2017 eclipse. [In this instructional blog, the event organizers provide insights, recommendations, and helpful tips](#) to help you and your community get prepared and make the most of this exciting celestial event.

Carbondale, Illinois | “Preparing Your Main Street for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse”



From left to right: Carbondale Main Street volunteers assist visitors, crowds enjoy an evening concert during Carbondale ShadowFest, and Carbondale-branded eclipse glasses. Photos courtesy of Carbondale Main Street.

Carbondale, Ill., was the point of longest duration for the 2017 total solar eclipse. For almost three minutes, the town was wrapped in total darkness in the middle of a late-summer day. Those three minutes attracted an estimated 30,000 visitors from all over the world to our town of just over 20,000, with hotels booked with a three-day minimum. [Read this blog to learn about their experience and advice for other communities in the path.](#)

Hendersonville, North Carolina | “The Desire for a Different Earth Day ... Downtown”



The Henderson County Beekeepers exhibited a hive behind glass with the queen identified. Photo provided by the City of Hendersonville.

In Hendersonville, N.C., a group of passionate residents along with the local Main Street program worked together to create their first ever Earth Day Festival to celebrate their local environment and educate residents about ways to get involved with sustainability efforts. [In this blog, the event organizers explain how they brought their vision to life and offer tips and tricks for starting your own science-based festival.](#)

Los Alamos, New Mexico | “Using Scientific Significance to Instill Community Pride”



A young girl examines the inner workings of a daisy flower at the National Park Service's annual booth at Science Fest. PC: National Park Services Photo provided by Los Alamos MainStreet. Picture Credit: National Park Service.

Los Alamos, N.M. holds a place of significance in the world of both science and history. The birthplace of the atomic bomb during World War II, the town was once the home to thousands of scientists working on the top-secret project. Main Street leaders and residents have used the town's fascinating history to create a hugely successful week-long ScienceFest, going 16 years strong and counting. [In this blog, event organizers outline their tips for success.](#)

Resources for Engaging with Science

- [Learn from or join an alliance of science festivals](#) (*Science Festival Alliance*)
- [Learn about how science, society, and culture are woven together at the Simons Foundation](#) (*The Simons Foundation*)
- [Ask a Scientist](#) (*NASA*)



Additional Resources

[American Astronomical Society](#)

[Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#)

[Being in the Shadow](#)

[Great American Eclipse](#)

[Mr. Eclipse](#)

[NASA](#)

[National Eclipse](#)

[National Science Teaching Association](#)

[Nightwise.org](#)

[SCI Games](#)

[Space Science Institute](#)

[Solar Eclipse Society \(American Astronomical Society, NSF, NOAA, NASA\)](#)

[Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries \(SEAL\)](#)

[The Eclipse Company](#)

[Rochester Museum and Science Center](#)



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The Simons Foundation's mission is to advance the frontiers of research in mathematics and the basic sciences. Through their Science, Society, and Culture department, they seek to provide opportunities for people to forge a connection to science – whether for the first time or a lifetime. Through their initiatives, they work to inspire a feeling of awe and wonder, foster connections between people and science, and support environments that provide a sense of belonging.

[For more information, please visit their website here.](#)