

Total Solar Eclipse Safety

Viewing a solar eclipse is a once in a lifetime event, but if you don't follow basic safety precautions, improper viewing can lead to permanent damage to your eyes. The only time that it is safe to view a total solar eclipse is during the period of totality when the Moon fully blocks the surface of the Sun. During totality, you may safely view the light emitted by the Sun's corona. For the Corsicana event, totality will last 4 minutes and 10 seconds.

Note - There is an image of an eclipse sequence at the following page that NASA will allow us to use as long as we credit appropriately.

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

Before and after totality, the sun will be partially eclipsed. To view these periods safely, you must wear special eclipse glasses (compliant to ISO 12312-2 international safety standards). You should never rely upon homemade filters or dark sunglasses for protection as these are not rated for directly viewing the sun. The American Astronomical Society provides detailed information regarding reputable vendors for solar glasses, filters, and viewers:

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

Note - Perhaps provide a link to our official Corsicana Eclipse glasses here?

Let's make this event both memorable and safe. Take time to review the following safety considerations:

- Make sure that your eclipse glasses (or filter) is rated properly and free from damage (scratches, holes, etc).
- Never look at the sun without your eclipse glasses (or filter) covering your eyes.
- If you wear glasses, place the eclipse glasses over them before viewing the sun.
- If there are children in your party, make sure you monitor them and that they are properly using their eclipse glasses.
- Never look directly at the sun through any unfiltered cameras, binoculars, or telescopes.
- If you are in the path of totality, make sure you keep track of the time so that you are able to safely view totality without your eclipse glasses.
- If you are at an organized event, pay attention to organizer announcements regarding eclipse event timings.
- If you are viewing from an open unshaded area, consider packing sunscreen.