



Planning Your Eclipse Party

1. Choose a Location:

- Many eclipse enthusiasts host parties in their own backyard. Or, if it's a larger event, you may consider local community centers, museums, observatories, parks or open fields.
- It is always a good idea to choose place that has access to shade and facilities.
- You may also want to check weather-related Web sites for forecasts of your area. If the clouds move in, don't worry! You can always connect to NASA's live streaming event.

2. Watch the NASA EDGE Megacast:

On the day of the eclipse, NASA EDGE will join forces with other organizations to air live webcast of the total solar eclipse. During course of the Megacast, NASA EDGE will be tracking the eclipse as it starts in Texas and makes its way up the country and through Maine.

So if you're unable to view the eclipse in person, don't worry. Sit back, relax and let NASA EDGE turn your location into the best seat in the house!

3. Join an Online Discussion

Stay up-to-date with the latest information through a variety of social media channels. There are a variety of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, Snapchat, and Flickr accounts that will be focused solely on the eclipse on that day.

4. Provide Hands-On Activities

Prepare a variety of activities for your attendees. You can often find great activities and materials at local clubs, schools, and museums. Eclipse activities often include storytelling and/or arts and crafts. You can also find a wide selection of recommended activities online.

5. Explore Mobile Apps

The NASA Television App brings live and on-demand TV programming to your phone. Watch the latest NASA events unfold in real-time or select from a list of recently uploaded videos. Other Apps will also let you immerse yourself with experts through your phone even as you're outside watching the eclipse in real time.

6. Provide Hand-Outs

As the date gets closer, you can find a growing list of eclipse materials (fact sheets, bookmarks, posters, etc.) on the Internet that you can download and print!

7. Watch Eclipse Videos, Visualizations and Animations

NASA has produced several video clips that explain eclipses and how NASA is planning to study this eclipse. They can be downloaded in various sizes and formats, and can help you appreciate what will happen during the eclipse.

8. Fielding Eclipse Questions

People will have all sorts of questions about the eclipse and, most likely, about a wide range of astronomy topics, so be prepared to spend some of your time just answering questions. To host an eclipse event, you might need to turn yourself into an expert for the day!

9. Invite Local Speakers

If you can't answer all of the questions yourself, you might want to consider inviting a local expert to your event:

- Space Scientists – Contact your local university space science departments.
- Amateur Astronomers – Locate an astronomy club in your area
- Educators/Teachers – Contact science teachers at your local school.

10. Safe Solar Viewing

An eclipse is a rare and striking phenomenon you won't want to miss, but you must carefully follow safety procedures. **You can order special eclipse viewing glasses, or even go online to learn to make your own viewing equipment.**

Please don't let the requisite warnings scare you away from witnessing this singular spectacle! You can experience the eclipse safely, but it is vital that you protect your eyes at all times with the proper solar filters. No matter what recommended technique you use, do not stare continuously at the sun. Take breaks and give your eyes a rest! Do not use sunglasses: they don't offer your eyes sufficient protection!

11. Hold a Contest

Hosting a contest can be a great way to get people excited about your launch party. You can announce the winners at your party, and offer a small prize to incentive people if you so choose. Here are a few potential ideas for contests:

- Best poster about eclipse themes
- Best essay about eclipse themes
- Best edible model design
- Most creative diorama

12. Timing is Everything

Observers should be made aware of the times of ingress and egress and prompted with time updates every 10-15 minutes. It is especially important to sound an alarm maybe 15 seconds before totality ends so that people are not caught looking at or photographing the eclipse without solar filters when the sun reemerges from behind the moon.