



#### **News Release**

**For immediate release – photo or media coverage available upon request**

**The Challenger Learning Center of Lake Erie West, operated by the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West is proud to be an official NASA Viewing site for the 2017 Solar Eclipse! We are hosting a FREE public event on August 21st from 10am - 4pm.**

#### **2017 Eclipse Across America: Total Solar Eclipse**

On Monday, Aug. 21, 2017, the U.S. will be treated to a total eclipse of the sun. The eclipse will be visible -- weather permitting -- across all of North America. The entire continent will experience a partial eclipse lasting two to three hours. Anyone within a 70-milewide path that stretches through 14 states from Oregon to South Carolina will experience a total eclipse. During those brief moments -- when the moon completely blocks the sun's bright face for about two minutes -- day will turn into night, making visible the otherwise hidden solar corona, the sun's outer atmosphere. Bright stars and planets will become visible as well. Birds will fly to their nighttime roosts. Nocturnal insects such as cicadas and crickets will buzz and chirp. This is truly one of nature's most wondrous experiences. For NASA, the eclipse provides a unique opportunity to study the sun, Earth, moon and their interaction, because of the eclipse's long path over land coast to coast. Eleven NASA and NOAA satellites, the International Space Station, more than 50 high-altitude balloons, and hundreds of ground-based assets will take advantage of this rare event over 90 minutes, sharing the science and the beauty of a total solar eclipse with all. The Challenger Learning Center of Lake Erie West, operated by the ESC of Lake Erie West is one of these sites.

#### **What to expect on August 21st from 10am - 4pm:**

This event is FREE to the general public.

We will kick off the event with Meteorologist Ross Ellet at 10am. Community partners, including the Toledo Metroparks and YMCA will be onsite with activities throughout the day.

We have approximately 1000 certified solar eclipse glasses from NASA that will be given out at the event at no cost.

We have approximately 500 certified solar eclipse glasses that can be decorated and shared on social media with the hashtag #MyEclipseGlasses <https://go.nasa.gov/2r4rmbn>

VIP packages including preferred seating to the 6pm pre-screening of "The Farthest: Voyager in Space," a NASA Eclipse t-shirt, sticker, and glasses are on sale for \$10.00 plus a convenience fee. <https://www.localevents.com/events/details/3348>

We expect to see 80% coverage in our area at 2:22pm on August 21st.

**Special Preview Screening: The Farthest - Voyager in Space at 6pm**

We are proud to host a special preview screening at our center starting at 6pm.

<http://www.pbs.org/the-farthest/screenings/>

Check out our Facebook Event page!



**Program date, times, and location:**

August 21, 2017

10am - 4pm General Public

August 21, 2017

6pm - 8pm

Free Preview Screening of "The Farthest - Voyager in Space"

Location:

Challenger Learning Center of Lake Erie West

4955 Seaman Road

Oregon, OH 43616

**Contact information:**

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For more information visit <http://www.eslakeeriewest.org/challenger-learning-center>

*About the Challenger Learning Center of Lake Erie West*

*Using space exploration as a theme and simulations as a vehicle, Challenger Center and its international network of over 40 Challenger Learning Centers create positive educational experiences that raise students' expectations of success, fosters a long-term interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and inspires students to pursue studies and careers in these areas. Challenger*

*Center's network of Challenger Learning Centers across the United States and in Canada, the United Kingdom, and South Korea reach more than 300,000 students each year through simulated space missions and educational programs, and engage over 40,000 educators through missions, teacher workshops and other programs. Challenger Center is a lifetime NASA partner. To learn more about Challenger Center for Space Science Education, visit <http://www.eslakeeriewest.org>*