

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Solar Eclipse Viewings at Several New Mexico State Parks

Santa Fe, NM – People around the nation are gearing up for the first total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States in 38 years, and on August 21, State Parks has eight viewing events planned to help people view the partial solar eclipse safely in New Mexico! The eclipse begins at 10:21 a.m. and ends at 1:13 p.m., and at about 11:45 a.m. New Mexicans will be able to see nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sun covered by the moon.

At **Cerrillos Hills State Park Visitor Center**, on 37 Main Street in Cerrillos, NM, solar eclipse glasses, meeting international safety standards, will be available. A telescope outfitted with a special “solar cone” will be available as well. The cone safely filters and magnifies the sun’s image to allow group viewing and spectacular photos.

Interpretive Ranger Heather MacCurdy will be on hand at **the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park** in Albuquerque. She will hand out eclipse glasses, have a solar telescope and provide some neat hands-on activities.

At **Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park** in Carlsbad, safely view the solar eclipse through telescopes with special filters.

Solar eclipse glasses and informational sheets will also be available at **Hyde Memorial State Park** near Santa Fe, **Manzano Mountains State Park** near Mountainair, **Storrie Lake State Park** near Las Vegas, and **Villanueva State Park** near Villanueva.

State Parks’ Regional Interpretive Ranger Pat Walsh will be at Ripley Park in downtown Raton at North Second Street and Savage Avenue from 10:21 a.m. – 1:13 p.m. “We’ll have a solar telescope for close-up views, and everyone will be provided with eclipse glasses as well,” said Walsh. “Hopefully, lots of folks will be able to stop by to take in the spectacle, even if only for a few minutes.”

Solar eclipses occur when the moon is in just the right spot to block all or part of the sun. Although the moon is much smaller than the sun, it is closer to the earth. And as

seen from earth, both the moon and the sun are the same size in the sky. As such, when the moon lines up exactly with the sun, it can hide the sun.

For more information, contact Walsh at **Sugarite Canyon State Park** which is located just outside of Raton, 575-445-5607 or Sarah Wood, Central Region Park Manager at 505-629-5659. These events were partially sponsored by the Amigos de Cerrillos Hills State Park.



Telescope outfitted with a special "Solar Cone" will be used at Cerrillos Hills State Park

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Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.