Experience the solar eclipse on UCLA’s campus

UCLA students, researchers, and faculty in astronomy and planetary sciences will host a free public event to share the science and excitement about the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. at UCLA’s Court of Sciences (between Geology Building and Boelter Hall).

"On Monday, the three bodies that made life on Earth possible will be aligned", said EPSS Department Chair Jean-Luc Margot. "Don't miss it!"

In addition to solar telescopes and projection telescopes, a special screen with a projected image of the eclipse will enable participants to take "eclipse selfies" to share on social media. The public can ask scientists questions about solar system science and astronomy. A limited number of eclipse glasses will be given out. The event will be streamed live on the UCLA Facebook page, with EPSS professors answering questions from viewers. Viewers are invited to post on social media using the hashtag #UCLAeclipse. More details about the event can be found at epss.ucla.edu.

Although Los Angeles residents will not experience a total solar eclipse, a sizeable fraction of the solar disk will be obscured by the Moon. By 9:30 a.m. PDT, the Moon will have taken a visible bite out of the Sun. At the event’s maximum (10:20 a.m. PDT), about 60% of the solar disk will be obscured. The eclipse will be visible only if clouds do not obstruct the view.
The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences (EPSS), the Institute for Planets and Exoplanets (iPLEX), Astronomy Live!, and the Optical Society of America (OSA), two student groups affiliated with the Physics & Astronomy and Engineering departments, respectively.

UCLA has a long history of leading or participating in NASA missions that explore the solar system and our connection to the universe.

EPSS scientists study the Sun with NASA spacecraft such as the Solar Dynamic Observatory and the upcoming Parker Solar Probe launching summer 2018.

"This is an incredible occasion for Americans to witness a celestial event with profound connections to our society, reinforcing the concept that our powerful sun influences all the planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and even space dust," said UCLA professor Marco Velli, who is the Observatory Scientist on NASA’s Parker Solar Probe.

For more information, please contact:

Emmanuel Masongsong, EPSS, emasongsong@igpp.ucla.edu
Xinnan Du, Astronomy Live!, xinnandu@gmail.com,
Jacky Chan, OSA, jckchan@ucla.edu