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Yakima Valley Libraries Distributing Free Eclipse Glasses

Yakima, WA - Calling all amateur astronomers! In less than three weeks, the U.S. will have front row seats for a total solar eclipse, which will occur on Monday, August 21st, 2017—the first one visible in North America in almost 40 years! This is exciting news, but anyone viewing the eclipse needs to take certain precautions in order to do so safely.

Yakima Valley Libraries will be distributing free eclipse glasses, made available through the Washington State Library, and via a larger disbursement sponsored by STAR_net, the NASA @ My Library program, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, among other organizations.

“We’re pretty fortunate to be among the 1,500 public libraries in the nation who received the glasses,” said Krystal Corbray, programming and marketing librarian. “Similar glasses are available for purchase online and in some stores here in the Yakima Valley, but it’s important we’re excited to be able to give them away for free, so many more people who otherwise might not be able to do so, can watch the eclipse safely. There has already been a lot of interest from the public, so we’re expecting them to go fairly quickly.”

Glasses will be distributed on a first come, first served basis in all 17 Yakima Valley Libraries locations, and anyone who receives glasses will also be given information about the eclipse, and tips for safely viewing the phenomenon. For library locations please consult our website at www.yvl.org or call 509-575-3400.

In addition, several community libraries will host a “pre-eclipse party” in the days leading up to the event on August 21st, which will include eclipse-themed crafts and activities.

For more information and event dates, contact your local community library.

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