



# ROANOKE VALLEY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



Roanoke, Virginia

[www.rvasclub.org](http://www.rvasclub.org)

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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## ECLIPSE VIEWING IN MARKET SQUARE

Local astronomy club conducting free public event

Roanoke, Virginia – Across the nation, excitement has been building to striking proportions. In just over a week—and for the first time in nearly 100 years!—a total solar eclipse will be visible from coast-to-coast in the U.S. On August 21, 2017, for those fortunate to live within or travel to the narrow path of totality, daylight will morph into a deep, strange twilight, revealing a solar glory only seen during such events.

Here in Roanoke, tantalizingly near, but off the path, the eclipse will be “partial,” with 90% of the sun hidden by the moon at maximum eclipse. We won’t experience the “darkness at noon,” but it will still be quite a show. And the Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society, in partnership with the Science Museum of Western Virginia, will be in Roanoke’s downtown Market Square offering free views of the eclipse to the public. That is, of course, if Mother Nature cooperates.

The event begins at 1:11 p.m. as the invisible moon first “bites” into the right edge of the sun, and continues through the maximum 90% coverage. Thereafter, more and more of the sun will be revealed, until the moon exits the sun’s left edge at 4:03 p.m. All the while specially filtered solar telescopes will provide real-time viewing, directly or on a monitor, of the sky show. Special eclipse glasses will also be available for public use to observe the spectacle. And several RVAS members will be on hand to share information, answer questions and conduct demonstrations.

Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime coast-to-coast event. See you at Market Square on August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.!

**(WARNING: We will experience a partial eclipse. There is no time that the sun can be viewed without approved eye protection. Looking at the sun without approved eye protection risks severe and permanent eye damage.)**