

## Science North to celebrate rare solar eclipse with viewing party, hands-on activities, and special events

**(SUDBURY, ON)** – On Monday, April 8, a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse will sweep across North America and Science North is inviting the community to a free viewing party. In Greater Sudbury, the eclipse will start at 2:05 pm and reach its maximum at 3:19 pm. At the eclipse maximum, 90% of the Sun’s diameter will be eclipsed by the Moon.

This upcoming solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. A solar eclipse occurs when a new Moon passes in front of the Sun, casting a shadow on the Earth. Some areas experience a lighter shadow, the penumbra, while others experience the full shadow, the umbra. The path of the shadow changes with each eclipse. Although the Sun and Moon align roughly every 18 months, Ontario last witnessed a total solar eclipse in 1979, and the next won't occur here until 2106.

Science North will be celebrating this legendary event with the following outdoor and indoor programming:

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm outdoor activities on the Science North grounds (weather permitting)

- Solar telescope viewing
- Indirect viewing with pinhole viewers and colanders and more
- Direct viewing with special eclipse glasses
- Hands-on science activities
- Visit with SNOLAB

**Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chair if they plan on taking part in the activities outside.**

**In the event of clouds or rain, all activities will take place in the Vale Cavern with a live stream of the total solar eclipse.**

12:30 pm to 4:00 pm indoor activities

- Total solar eclipse livestream in Vale Cavern (While this live stream is free of charge, admission is still being charged for the science centre)
- Planetarium Shows throughout the day (additional cost)

### How to get eclipse glasses

For anyone interested in securing their pair of eclipse glasses ahead of time, they are for sale at Whizards gift shop for \$3. Alternatively, visitors who purchase a general admission ticket or members who reserve their ticket on April 8 will receive one pair of glasses (while supplies last). Science North will also provide certified eclipse glasses free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, along with opportunities to view the eclipse safely using a solar telescope and indirect viewing equipment.

Please note, it is not safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing. If you don't have eclipse glasses, you can use an indirect viewing method, which does not involve looking directly at the Sun. For more information about indirect viewing, please visit the Canadian Space Agency's website at [asc-csa.gc.ca](http://asc-csa.gc.ca).

### 50+ event

Science North will also be hosting a solar eclipse social for their 50+ audience from 10 am to 11:30 am on April 8. Included in the event is a pair of eclipse glasses, light refreshments, a special talk about the science of solar eclipses by Staff Scientist, Dr. Olathe MacIntyre, and admission to the science centre following the talk. Tickets for the event are \$22 and are on sale now at [sciencenorth.ca/planetarium#eclipse](http://sciencenorth.ca/planetarium#eclipse) or in person at Science North.

### About Science North

Science North is Northern Ontario's most popular tourist attraction and an educational resource for children and adults across the province. Science North maintains the second – and eighth-largest science centres in Canada. Science North's attractions include a science centre, IMAX® theatre, digital Planetarium, butterfly gallery, special exhibits hall, and Dynamic Earth: Home of the Big Nickel. Science North, in partnership with Laurentian University, offers North America's first and only comprehensive Science Communication program, a joint master's and Graduate Diploma program. As part of its mandate, Science North provides science experiences throughout Northern Ontario including outreach to schools and festivals, summer science camps and more, and has a permanent base in Thunder Bay providing outreach to the Northwest. Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For more information, visit [sciencenorth.ca](http://sciencenorth.ca).

-30-

### Media Contact:

Phil Howard  
Senior Marketing Specialist  
Science North  
705-522-3701 ext. 273  
[phil.howard@sciencenorth.ca](mailto:phil.howard@sciencenorth.ca)

*Science North is an agency of the Government of Ontario and a registered charity #10796 2979 RR0001.*