

STARGAZING PROGRAMS & GENERAL INFORMATION

FREE STARGAZING AND TELESCOPE VIEWING



FIRST prepare yourself by attending an evening program (see other side), then join us for stargazing with telescopes.

To assist your viewing of the heavens, we proudly enlist helpful and knowledgeable volunteers from the Salt Lake Astronomical Society (SLAS). Don't be shy! If you don't see anything, let the telescope operator know! Please ask questions, and above all else, enjoy!

BRYCE CANYON STARGAZING SITE*

THURSDAY – FRIDAY: 9:30 PM -12:30 AM

SATURDAY – SUNDAY: 10:00 PM -12:30 AM

STARGAZING SITE ACCESS IS RESTRICTED PRIOR TO THE TIMES ABOVE.

*Parking at the Stargazing Site is limited to persons with disabilities and telescope operators. EVERYBODY ELSE must arrive at the Stargazing Site via the Shuttles (see Shuttle Information). Visitor Center hours 8 am – 12 midnight May 17 - 20.



Constellation Tours: At the Stargazing Site, Bryce Canyon's "Dark Rangers" offer 20-minute laser sky tours where you'll learn more about mythology and sky lore.



Dress Warmly: At 8,000 feet (2438 m), Bryce Canyon is surprisingly cold at night. In May, daytime temperatures typically reach 70°F (21°C). Nighttime temperatures can fall below 40°F (4.5°C).



Bad Weather: In the event of cloudy or stormy weather, stargazing will be cancelled as determined only at the conclusion of the evening programs.



Flashlights: Using flashlights, laser pointers, and/or flash photography is not permitted on the Stargazing Site. Trust us, you'll be able to see well enough in the dark once your eyes have had 10-15 minutes to adjust.



No Pets: Pets are NOT permitted on shuttles or at the Stargazing Site. Kennel information is available at the Visitor Center.



No Smoking: Smoking is prohibited at Stargazing and Eclipse Viewing Sites because of impacts on sensitive telescope equipment and out of courtesy for other visitors.

VIEWING THE MAY 20 ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE

The best viewing locations inside the park are at Bryce Point or Inspiration Point. Access to these sites is by shuttle or bus ONLY (vehicles with a state-issued handicap insignia also permitted). Plan to arrive early. Bring water, snacks, a hat, and sunscreen. Non-reclining camp chairs are also welcome. An additional viewing site, open to all vehicles, is located outside the park in Bryce Canyon City.

Eclipse times (Mountain Daylight Time):

Contact 1 (partial eclipse begins)	6:22 pm
Contact 2 (start of annularity)	7:31 pm
Maximum Eclipse	7:33 pm
Contact 3 (end of annularity)	7:35 pm
Sunset/Contact 4 (partial eclipse ends)	8:36 pm



Eclipse glasses available Sunday May 20

WARNING: Never look directly at an eclipse without proper eye protection! All sunglasses are inadequate and unsafe! FREE eclipse glasses are available at the Visitor Center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, and park entrance stations. DO NOT view the eclipse through binoculars, telescopes, or cameras without solar filters specifically designed for this purpose!



Star Shuttles: Parking near the Stargazing Site is limited! Each night (May 17–20), shuttles provide transportation to and from Bryce's overnight stay locations, the evening program venues, and the Stargazing Site. See map at right.

STAR SHUTTLES: 8:00 PM–12:30 AM

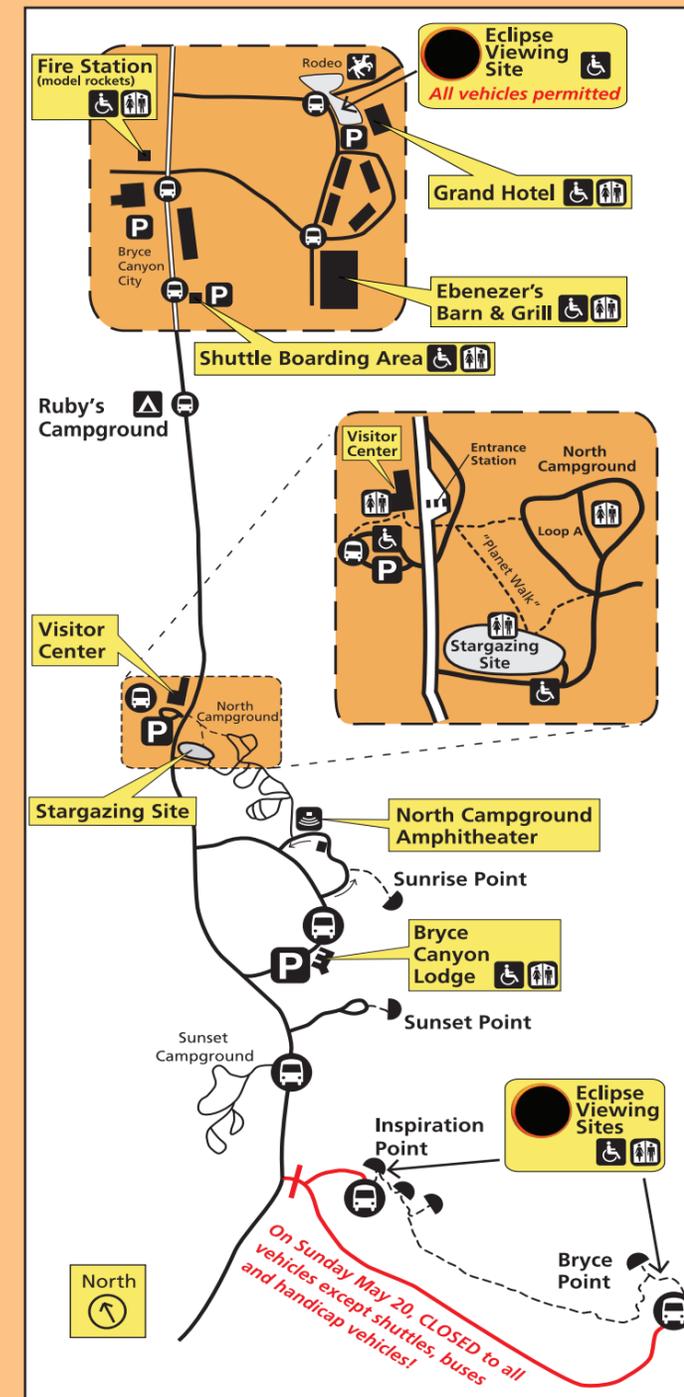
Eclipse Shuttles: On Sunday, May 20, shuttles will provide additional service to all three Eclipse Viewing Sites. **NOTE:** Bryce and Inspiration Points will be **CLOSED** to all private vehicles except those with a state-issued handicap insignia. Non-reclining camp chairs are permitted aboard the shuttles and are welcome at Eclipse Viewing Sites. Only small coolers/ice chests are allowed on shuttles. Service to Bryce and Inspiration Points concludes at 9:30 pm; Star Shuttle service to the Stargazing Site ends at 12:30 am.

ECLIPSE SHUTTLES: 5:00 PM–9:30 PM



Accessibility: Handicapped parking, with a state-issued insignia, is available at all locations. Wheelchair assistance may be needed at North Campground Amphitheater.

MAP OF FESTIVAL VENUES



This special event is sponsored by the National Park Service, Bryce Canyon Natural History Association, Bryce Canyon City, Ruby's Inn, Garfield Travel Council, and Salt Lake Astronomical Society.



Cover art courtesy of Tyler Nordgren

JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR OUR 13TH ANNUAL
BRYCE CANYON ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL JUNE 5-8, 2013

Bryce Canyon National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



12TH ANNUAL
**BRYCE CANYON
ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL**
AND
ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE
MAY 17 - 20, 2012

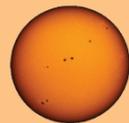


FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. JANNA LEVIN
SATURDAY MAY 19

The last grand sanctuary of natural darkness

DAYTIME PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

DAYTIME PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES ARE ATTENDED ON A FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED BASIS



SAFELY SEE OUR SUN

Using special solar telescopes, park rangers will safely show you and explain solar prominences and sunspots.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: NONE

LOCATION: OUTDOORS, BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE
THURSDAY - SUNDAY, 10:00AM - 12:00NOON (OPEN HOUSE)



PLANET WALK

Join a park ranger on a tour across the expanse of our solar system — 1/10 billionth its actual size! Learn about the planets and how there's no place like home.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: NONE

LOCATION: OUTDOORS, BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE
THURSDAY - SUNDAY, 4:00-5:30 PM
ROUND TRIP WALKING DISTANCE = 3/4 MILE (1.2 KM)



ROCKET BUILDING & LAUNCHING WORKSHOPS

Many great astronauts and astronomers got their start from a childhood love for model rockets. Here's a chance to introduce your child to the hobby of model rocketry.

Build and launch rockets with the safe and helpful guidance of expert rocket builders and Bryce Canyon's "Rocket Rangers."

AUDIENCE: AGES 6+ (AN ADULT MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN)

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: 50 (FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED)*

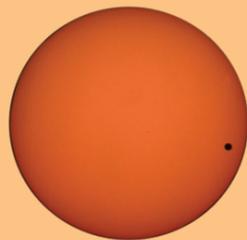
THURSDAY - SUNDAY 10:00AM-12:00 NOON (ASSEMBLY) AND 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM (LAUNCH OPERATIONS)

BRYCE CANYON CITY FIRE STATION (EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING)

*PARTICIPANTS MUST PURCHASE A ROCKET KIT VOUCHER AT THE BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER. ROCKET KIT PRICES RANGE FROM \$10-\$30.

Don't miss the other major solar event of 2012!

On Tuesday, June 5 the planet Venus will transit across the face of the Sun as seen from Earth. This event is so rare that it will not be visible from Earth again until 2117! Join us for special programs and viewing of the transit through solar telescopes, followed by another glorious night of stargazing with telescopes!



MARS ROVER DEMONSTRATION

Watch University of Utah Engineers demonstrate the impressive capabilities of their newest robotic rover.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: NONE

LOCATION: OUTDOORS, BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER ENTRANCE
FRIDAY - SUNDAY, 10:00AM - 2:00PM (OPEN HOUSE)



PLANISPHERE PRACTICE: LEARN THE SKY

Becoming a constellation expert requires nothing more than practice with a planisphere. Let Bryce Canyon's "Dark Rangers" teach you how to use this simple device and share other useful tips and tricks for navigating the night sky. Join us for this great warm-up to stargazing.

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: 50 (FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED)

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER
THURSDAY - SATURDAY, 6:00-7:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 17

THE FIRST STAR PEOPLE



North Americans have been astronomers for thousands of years. Archeology and oral traditions reveal how Native people were profoundly affected by the stars, Sun and Moon. Join "Dark Ranger" Sean Duffy to look at the sky through indigenous eyes.

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER

THURSDAY MAY 17, 8:00-9:00 PM

LUNACY: MYTHS, LEGENDS & REALITY



Join "Dark Ranger" Kevin Doxstater in this mixture of myths, legends, popular culture, and some interesting scientific facts you may know - as well as a few you may not know - about our nearest celestial neighbor, the Moon.

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM

THURSDAY MAY 17, 8:30-9:30 PM

STRANGE UNIVERSE



If you thought Bryce Canyon's hoodoos were beautiful and bizarre, wait until you explore the universe overhead with "Dark Ranger" Geoff Goins.

LOCATION: NORTH CAMPGROUND AMPHITHEATER

THURSDAY MAY 17, 9:00-10:00 PM

EVENING PROGRAMS

DON'T GET CAUGHT GUESSING AT THE TELESCOPES! ATTEND ONE OF OUR FREE RENOWNED MULTIMEDIA SHOWS FIRST!

FRIDAY, MAY 18

ECLIPSES: RARE IN OCCURRENCE, RICH IN HISTORY

Few events capture the imagination like an eclipse. Role play as a heavenly body to learn how eclipses work, and rejoice in the stories these events inspire as retold by Planetarium Educator Amy Sayle.



LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON VISITOR CENTER THEATER
FRIDAY MAY 18, 8:00-9:00 PM

MAYA ASTRONOMERS - PREDICTORS OF DOOM?

Jan Allen, PhD Archaeologist, knows the Maya long-count calendar almost as well as the ancients who designed it. Learn whether the Maya actually predicted 12/21/2012 to be "the end" or a "new beginning."



LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM
FRIDAY MAY 18, 8:30-9:30 PM

THE LIVES OF STARS



What would life be like as a bazillion-ton ball of nuclear fusion? Join "Dark Ranger" Joel Allen for an amusing celebration of our universe and the stars that make it ALL possible!

LOCATION: NORTH CAMPGROUND AMPHITHEATER
FRIDAY MAY 18, 9:00-10:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 20

UNSEEN UNIVERSE



Exoplanets, the Oort Cloud, dust clouds, gas clouds, dark matter, and dark energy. "Dark Ranger" Ron Warner explores how we know - and what little we really know - about our universe.

LOCATION: BRYCE CANYON LODGE AUDITORIUM
SUNDAY MAY 20, 9:00-10:00 PM

SOL: BRINGER OF LIFE, GIVER OF DEATH



Our Sun is necessary to life and, while it seems benevolent, it is so powerful it can be malevolent. "Dark Ranger" Kevin Poe celebrates our closest star from the perspectives of plants, animals, ancient cultures, astronomy, and green energy.

LOCATION: NORTH CAMPGROUND AMPHITHEATER
SUNDAY MAY 20, 9:30-10:30 PM



Tickets: Because of limited seating, FREE tickets are required for all Evening Programs. Tickets must be obtained in person and are available at the Visitor Center beginning at 10 pm the night before the program (Visitor Center open until midnight May 17 - 20). PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM EARLY, as 5 minutes PRIOR to the scheduled start time, ALL unclaimed seats will be given away to bystanders.

SATURDAY, MAY 19 - KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. JANNA LEVIN

BOOMING BLACK HOLES:

Black Holes, the imploded remnants of massive stars, trap light and are therefore invisible, yet can they be heard? When black holes collide, they bang on space like mallets on a drum creating gravity waves in the very fabric of space. Within a few years, and with the help of sophisticated new instruments, it is likely that these waves can be detected and played back as sounds -- and not just black holes, but exploding stars, and colliding galaxies. Soon Dr. Levin, and other acoustic astrophysicists, will start downloading the soundtrack of the Universe. They might even be able to find out if the Big Bang really went "BANG!"

LOCATION: EBENEZER'S BARN & GRILL, BRYCE CANYON CITY

ATTENDANCE LIMIT: 1000

ADMISSION: \$3 PER PERSON, \$10 IMMEDIATE FAMILY (PAY AT THE DOOR)

SATURDAY MAY 19, 8:30-9:30 PM*



* Followed at 10:00 pm by FREE stargazing with telescopes at the Stargazing Site in Bryce Canyon National Park (across from the Visitor Center) courtesy of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society and the Bryce Canyon "Dark Rangers."