

The Eclipse Soundscapes Project Asks for The Public's Help to Determine How Eclipses Impact Life on Earth

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Medford, Mass. — On April 8, 2024 a total solar eclipse will sweep across the United States from Texas to Maine, placing approximately 31.6 million people in the “path of totality.” This event is sure to be awe-inspiring in and of itself, but eclipse-goers can make the experience even more rewarding by participating in NASA science. The [Eclipse Soundscapes Project](#) is a NASA Citizen Science experiment that will study the impact of the eclipse on various U.S. ecosystems by collecting audio data and other sensory observations.

“Eclipses have always presented scientists with unique opportunities to learn about our solar system,” said MaryKay Severino, co-lead of the Eclipse Soundscapes Project. “The Eclipse Soundscapes Project is not only an opportunity for NASA to gather a large amount of scientific data, it’s an opportunity for our participants to learn about the eclipse in a multi-sensory manner.”

Eclipse Soundscapes is based on a [nearly century-old eclipse study](#) that showed animals and insects are affected by solar eclipses. Using observations from the public, the study reported visual and acoustic changes in the natural environment. For example, some participants reported that at the moment the sky went dark, crickets began chirping.

Much like this early eclipse study, Eclipse Soundscapes will enlist the public’s help. On the day of the eclipse, [Eclipse Soundscapes Data Collectors](#) will use an AudioMoth recording device to record soundscapes before, during, and after the eclipse. [Eclipse Soundscapes Observers](#) will take written notes of what they hear, see, or feel during the eclipse.

This multi-sensory approach demonstrates that eclipses are not only a visual event, and will expand participation to groups who have traditionally been left out of eclipse



learning (such as the blind and low vision communities). All Eclipse Soundscapes roles and materials were created with [accessibility and inclusion](#) in mind.

“The intention of this project is to make the total solar eclipse an engaging and enjoyable experience for everyone,” said Dr. Henry “Trae” Winter, co-lead of the Eclipse Soundscapes Project. “We are excited to invite the public to participate in this opportunity to perform real and meaningful scientific research as equal participants.”

Following the eclipse, members of the public can help uncover the patterns and meaning behind the acoustic data by becoming an Eclipse Soundscapes Data Analyst. All data collected will be open source and available to the public for future scientific research.

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Eclipse Soundscapes is an enterprise of ARISA Lab, LLC and is supported by NASA award No. 80NSSC21M0008. The Advanced Research in STEAM Accessibility (ARISA) Lab creates innovative technology solutions and resources for educators, under-represented learners, and client organizations to increase engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). All of ARISA’s products are designed with accessibility and inclusion in mind from the beginning to increase engagement and ease of use for all users.

Contact

For media inquiries regarding the Eclipse Soundscapes Project, please visit eclipsesoundscapes.org/media-kit or contact Communications Coordinator Kelsey Perrett at info@eclipsesoundscapes.org.

