



The William D. McDowell Observatory will not be open for the Partial Solar Eclipse taking place on Monday, April 8, 2024.

The Observatory telescope is not equipped to view the sun. Doing so will damage the optics and electronics used to operate the telescope.

Below is a list of safety tips from NASA for those that plan to view the Partial Solar Eclipse.

- Astronomy experts at NASA urge the public to wear special, filtered safety glasses if they choose to look at the sun during the eclipse. Viewing any part of the bright sun through a camera lens, binoculars or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics will instantly cause severe eye injury.
- Cardboard solar eclipse glasses with solar filters are commonly recommended for viewing eclipses. These glasses can found online and at some libraries and science centers. They must have a statement printed on them that they conform to and meet the Transmission Requirements of ISO 12312-2 Filters for Direct Observation of the Sun.
- Always inspect your eclipse glasses before use; if torn, scratched, or otherwise damaged, discard the device. Always supervise children using solar viewers.
- Do **NOT** look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars or any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye injury.
- Special filters are needed if you plan to take photos of the sun with your cell phone or any camera. If you point a digital camera or phone at the sun without filters, you can burn out the sensor that they use to take pictures.