Eclipse – WKU Preview

VFTH

6/29/17

In less than two months WKU is planning to host the biggest science lesson ever inside Houchens Smith Stadium.

Amy Bingham has more on plans surrounding the August 21st solar eclipse in this week’s View from the Hill.

August 21st marks the first day of the fall semester at WKU. But classes won’t begin until four o’clock that day so that thousands of students who live outside the line of totality can come to campus to witness the Great American eclipse for themselves.

Alley Paul \ SCI camper

Dr. Gordon Emslie \ Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Richard Gelderman \ Physics and Astronomy

Theo Wellington \ Eclipse Planning Coordinator

Students at WKU’s science camp are practicing for August 21st.

 “It was really cool. I didn’t think it would work but it was really awesome.”

This year’s camp focus --what else—the total solar eclipse.

 “This time it had to be the theme. We didn’t have a choice. The difference is everyone is so excited.”

The buzz is getting louder about the August 21st total solar eclipse that will be visible from right here in Bowling Green.

 “Hopkinsville gets about 2 ½ minutes, we get about one minute exactly.”

 “I tell people that exit 28 on the interstate is outside and exit 26 is inside. If you live even a mile north you will get partial eclipse.”

 “Partial just doesn’t count. It just won’t be anything close to the same thing.”

That’s why WKU is hoping to fill Smith stadium with K- 12 students who live north of the total eclipse viewing area.

 “We’ve extended an invite to a variety of districts largely north of the totality line and hope they will send their students.”

 “There are all these school districts at 99 percent, that’s not where you want to be …it’s literally the difference between day and night.”

An eclipse committee comprised of people across campus has been meeting for the past eighteen months to work out logistics.

 “We understand its organizationally challenging for you to do to send students off campus for a day. This is something they will remember for the rest of their lives and its important they be provided the opportunity.”

T-shirts, posters and viewing glasses are already available to commemorate the event.

 “This is the biggest in your face science experiment ever.”

Eclipse merchandise is already available at Dezign Tees in Bowling Green. To find out more about WKU’s plans for August 21st, log onto wku.edu backslash eclipse.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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