

Salt Lake County

Whereas, we recognize the supreme effort by the dedicated staff at Clark Planetarium during the last month. We note their accomplishments engaging the community in the pursuit of science education. In addition to their regular programs including star parties across Salt Lake County, Astrotots, Fun Science Fridays, Clark Creates, and Sensory Friendly Saturday, the Planetarium ran an additional series of events across the valley from September 20 – Oct 14, 2023.

Whereas, Clark Planetarium partnered with NASA, Northrop Grumman, the United States Postal Service (USPS), the University of Arizona, Utah State University's Space Dynamics Lab, Hill Aerospace Museum, local schools, and others to bring the excitement of the OSIRIS REx Sample Return Mission to residents across the valley. The Director of NASA's Planetary Science Mission Directorate's Planetary Science Division gave science briefings to local school groups, NASA representatives, university researchers, and industry leaders. People from around the United States flew to Salt Lake City to attend the USPS unveiling of a new OSIRIS REx postage stamp and meet the student that named the asteroid. The week's events culminated in a watch party of the sample return landing in Utah's West Desert.

Whereas, Clark Planetarium partnered with FanX to bring the wonder of the universe to attendees of the annual FanX experience at the Salt Palace. FanX graciously donated a 2,500 square foot room in the Salt Lake Convention Center to Clark Planetarium. They populated the room with interactive exhibits, tables with activities, and hourly live science programs that engaged nearly 3,500 Wookies, Trekkies, Hobbits, and Muggles of all backgrounds and ages.

Whereas, in preparation for the October 14, 2023 annular solar eclipse and the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse, the planetarium conducted 10 training sessions with 150 Salt Lake County employees and teachers from across the state. Clark Planetarium leveraged funding from the State of Utah, Utah Space Grant, and a partnership with the NASA PUNCH mission to distribute 122,000 pairs of eclipse glasses, pinhole viewers, and curriculum across the state. This ensured that all 6th grade students and their families had access to safely view the eclipse and to build an understanding of the science of eclipses. In rural areas, glasses were provided to all students so that all families could view the celestial event together.

Whereas, locally, Clark Planetarium partnered with the Mayor's Book & Media Club prior to the eclipse to support access to an educational planetarium show, *Eclipse: The Sun Revealed* and eclipse glasses at no cost. The Planetarium partnered with the Whittmore Library, Magna Regional Park, and the Gateway to host eclipse events on October 14th. Over the course of only two months 3,200 people attended *Eclipse: The Sun Revealed* and 30,000 purchased eclipse glasses. Over 2,000 people attended eclipse events, engaging in both science and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Salt Lake County Council and Mayor Jenny Wilson our gratitude to the Clark Planetarium Staff for their hard work and dedication to educating and enriching the lives of Salt Lake County residents.

Jennifer Wilson
Mayor

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