



City of Kerrville
701 Main Street
Kerrville, Texas 78028
(830) 257-8000
www.kerrvilletx.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stuart Cunyus, Public Information Officer
(830) 258-1116
stuart.cunyus@kerrvilletx.gov

NASA collaborates with Kerrville River Festival to offer prime viewing experience during 2023 annular solar eclipse

Kerrville, Texas (Sept. 26, 2023) – The City of Kerrville is offering premium viewing of this year's annular solar eclipse on Oct. 14, 2023 at the Fourth Annual Kerrville River Festival in Louise Hays Park, 202 Thompson Dr. NASA has designated Kerrville as a major viewing partner in the U.S. for the annular eclipse and will be collaborating with the City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department to enhance the experience for attendees of Kerrville River Festival. The agency will be live broadcasting the eclipse from the event and will have a team of experts on-site to engage with the public. NASA will also provide hands-on activities, giveaways, and a keynote speaker.



An annular solar eclipse is a remarkable phenomenon that occurs when the moon aligns with the sun, creating a "ring of fire" effect as the moon partially obscures the sun's center.

Eager sky-gazers and astronomy enthusiasts will have the opportunity to witness this natural wonder as the eclipse reaches its pinnacle, or “annularity,” at precisely 11:50 a.m. Annularity will occur for 4 minutes and 15 seconds, and the NASA speaker will start shortly after. During an annular eclipse, there is no safe time to look at the sun without eclipse-viewing glasses.

“The annular solar eclipse will be a spectacular view from Kerrville, and millions of people across the Western Hemisphere will be able to see the radiant ring of fire,” said Nicola Fox, associate administrator for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington. “NASA is excited to partner with the City of Kerrville to engage people across the surrounding areas to participate in and learn more about the eclipse through the eyes of NASA. Our goal is to inspire the next generation to dream big through this rare opportunity in our solar system.”

Festival grounds will open at 10 a.m. so attendees can secure a viewing spot. ISO-certified eclipse glasses will be for sale at the festival, but it is recommended to purchase glasses in advance at Kerrville City Hall or Kerrville-Schreiner Park. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in an eclipse-themed photo to commemorate the occasion. Entry to the festival is free to the public and will include family-friendly activities, local food/merchant vendors, and live music throughout the day. Country star Danielle Bradbery will be headlining the festival.

Kerrville has various lodging options to suit festival-goer’s needs, such as hotels, cabins, and campsites. Accommodations are limited, so booking and securing lodging as soon as possible is suggested.

The City of Kerrville is already preparing for the total solar eclipse that is taking place on April 8, 2024, an occurrence where the moon will entirely block the sun. This type of eclipse

only happens in a given area once every 300 years or so. The total solar eclipse will coincide with the 2024 Kerrville Eclipse Festival. The city hopes for a great turnout to commemorate this rare event.

For more information and updates on this remarkable event, please visit www.kerrvilleriverfestival.org and the Kerrville River Festival and Annular Eclipse Celebration with NASA Facebook event.

Event Details

- Date: Oct. 14, 2023
- Time: Festival grounds open at 10 a.m. Eclipse Viewing is at 11:50 a.m.
- Location: Louise Hays Park, 202 Thompson Dr., Kerrville, Texas

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (830) 257-7300, recreation@kerrvilletx.gov, visit the city's website at www.kerrvilletx.gov, or follow us on Facebook at City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department or Instagram at cityofkerrville.

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