

Program Contact:

Anne Holland, 720-974-9876
Senior Education Associate
aholland@spacescience.org

**Media Contact:**

Karly Pitman, 720-974-5874
Executive Director
pitman@spacescience.org

IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 22, 2022

SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE RECEIVES GRANT FROM GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION

Will provide public libraries 5 million solar viewing glasses for 2023/2024 solar eclipses

Boulder, CO June 22, 2022

The Space Science Institute (SSI) was awarded a generous grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to provide 5 million solar viewing glasses, in-person training workshops, kits, print resources and more to 10,000 public libraries and 55 state library agencies across the United States. Public libraries will serve as centers for eclipse education and viewing for their communities during the annular solar eclipse in 2023 and total solar eclipse in 2024, while State Library Agencies will be a backbone supporting their individual library constituents through training and circulating kits. This project also aims to support U.S. territories in the Pacific who will have a partial solar eclipse in April of 2023. The libraries will be selected through a registration process managed by the STAR Library Education Network (*STAR Net*), a program led by SSI's National Center for Interactive Learning. The Project Director for the Moore eclipse award is Anne Holland (Senior Education Associate, SSI/NCIL). Dr. James Harold (SSI/NCIL) is the project Co-I in charge of science content for library activities, and Andrew Fraknoi (Professor of Astronomy, University of San Francisco; Emeritus Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothills College), and Dennis Schatz (Senior Fellow, Institute for Learning Innovation) will lead the effort to connect this program with other eclipse projects, subject matter experts, and activities.

On August 21, 2017, a spectacular total eclipse of the Sun awed spectators across the width of the continental U.S. for the first time since 1918. As extraordinary and rare as the 2017 U.S. opportunity was, we in North America are fortunate to have a second chance: 2024 will bring the last total eclipse visible in the U.S. for another two decades. Prior to that is an intriguing annular eclipse in 2023, perfectly positioned to serve as a "warm up" for the total eclipse 6 months later. Combined, the efforts under this new program – glasses distribution, education and outreach programs, and partnerships -- will allow the Moore Foundation and SSI to support an unprecedented number of people, in a



broad range of communities, as they experience the eclipses – helping them to open their eyes to a profoundly inspiring astronomical experience. “The Moore Foundation was instrumental in SSI/NCIL’s ability to provide free solar viewing glasses and educational resources to millions of people during the 2017 eclipse, and we are so excited to be working with Moore and our library partners to increase the reach to and number of resources for even more communities for the 2023 and 2024 eclipses,” said Dr. Karly Pitman, Executive Director of SSI.

About the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation fosters path-breaking scientific discovery, environmental conservation, patient care improvements and preservation of the special character of the Bay Area. Visit Moore.org and follow @MooreFound.

About the STAR Library Network (STAR Net)

Libraries across the country have been reimagining their community role to strengthen community-based learning and foster critical thinking, problem solving, and engagement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Public libraries serve people of all races, ages, and socio-economic backgrounds. They are becoming “on-ramps” to STEM learning by creating environments that welcome newcomers to the community.

STAR Net is a hands-on learning network for libraries and their communities across the country (www.starnetlibraries.org). STAR Net focuses on helping library professionals build their STEM skills by providing “science-technology activities and resources” (STAR) and training to use those resources. It includes a *STEM Activity Clearinghouse*, blogs, a webinar series, workshops at conferences, and a monthly e-newsletter. Partners include the American Library Association, Association of Rural and Small Libraries, Collaborative Summer Library Program, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, Afterschool Alliance, Cornerstones of Science, and many others.

About SSI’s National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL)

NCIL is dedicated to expanding the understanding and participation of families, youth, teachers, and citizens in science and technology (<http://ncil.spacescience.org>). We foster collaboration between STEM professionals and educators to bring the wonder of science and engineering directly to people. Our programs span a range of audience needs and delivery methods, including traveling museum and public Library exhibitions; educational films, videos, and websites; hands-on resources and activities; and educator workshops. Our programs are designed to be accessible to all, and to inspire the next generation of STEM innovators. They have a positive impact on rural and urban communities nationwide and reach underserved audiences with inspirational, fun, and innovative STEM activities.

About the SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

The Space Science Institute (SSI) is a nonprofit, public benefit research and education 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1992 with a vision to expand humankind's understanding and appreciation of planet Earth, our Solar System, and the universe beyond. SSI's mission is to (a) enable scientists to make new discoveries, (b) increase science and technology literacy for people of all ages and backgrounds, and (c) inspire youth to pursue science-technology education and career opportunities. It is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, with locations distributed across the U.S. and internationally.

www.spacescience.org

SSI scientists work on many prestigious space missions, including but not limited to the Mars Exploration Rovers, Rosetta, Cassini, Mars and Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiters, Mars Science Lander, Juno, ExoMars, OSIRIS-REx, Emirates Mars Mission, and Mars 2020. Areas of research also include heliophysics, observational astronomy (with such facilities as Hubble Space Telescope, SOFIA, JWST), and exoplanets (Kepler). SSI's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) fosters collaboration between scientists and educators to create nationally touring exhibits for museums and libraries, provide professional development and webinar training for science educators, and build popular digital games and apps with over a million hits.

This project is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through Grant Agreement 10756 to the Space Science Institute. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
