## MISSOURI ECLIPSE TASK FORCE

ANNOUNCES SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPO - JULY 22, 2023, SHOW-ME CENTER, CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO

MOEclipse.org

ATTN: CALENDAR, NEWSROOM, OR PSA EDITOR

March 10, 2023 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Trish Erzfeld, (573) 517-2069 mobile or Don Ficken, (314) 550-7191 mobile

The <u>Missouri Eclipse Task Force</u> is pleased to announce that an all-day expo will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at the Show-Me Center located at 1333 N. Sprigg St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. The expo is designed to raise awareness and prepare the public for solar eclipses that North America will experience on October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024. Missouri will experience a "partial" eclipse on both dates with portions of Southeast Missouri experiencing over four minutes of "totality" on April 8, 2024, nearly double the length of totality of the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse. The event is sponsored by <u>Southeast Missouri State University</u> and <u>Visit Cape</u>, FREE for the public to attend if they pre-register, and FREE for qualifying organizations to host an exhibit. FREE eclipse glasses will be given to attendees, while supplies last.

Throughout the day, the 30,000 square foot Show-Me Center will feature exhibits by area cities, schools, parks, and tourism groups about their plans for viewing the eclipse. National, regional, and local eclipse experts, including representatives of NASA, will provide presentations related to the eclipse and solar science. Vendors will host exhibits displaying the latest in astronomical and solar viewing equipment. Activities will be provided for children to learn more about solar science and astronomy. Weather permitting, amateur astronomers will provide telescopes for FREE and safe viewing of the Sun by the public.

FREE tickets to attend the expo can be obtained by visiting <u>SEMOEclipseExpo.org</u>. The website can also be used by organizations to request a booth to exhibit at the expo and by sponsors, donors, and volunteers wanting to support this public event.

The **Missouri Eclipse Task Force** is a collaboration of organizations working together since 2020 to help Missourians, especially those within the path of totality prepare for the April 8, 2024, Total Solar Eclipse. The task force is comprised of nearly 100 organizations including cities, schools, parks, tourism groups and businesses who meet virtually each month zoom. Treasury and contractual obligations are provided by the <u>Astronomical Association of Southeast Missouri</u>, a 501(c)3 established in 2022 to advance the science of astronomy. To learn more about the Missouri Eclipse Task Force, please visit <u>www.moeclipse.org</u>. To learn more about the <u>Astronomical Association of Southeast Missouri</u>, please contact Peggy Hill at phill@semo.edu.