

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2017 Total Eclipse Information Session Hosted by
Grand Rapids Public Museum and the
Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association**

Grand Rapids, MI: Join the Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) and the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association (GRAAA) on Wednesday, March 1 for a special presentation on what people in West Michigan can do for the 2017 total solar eclipse.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the first significant total eclipse of the sun visible across a broad area of the continental United States since 1970 will take place midday. As the moon slips between the earth and sun, observers within the 70 mile wide band of the total eclipse, stretching from Oregon to South Carolina, will witness complete darkness for up to two minutes and forty seconds.

On March 1 at 7:30 p.m., Dave DeBruyn, Curator Emeritus of the GRPM's Chaffee Planetarium and current GRAAA President, along with WZZM Meteorologist George Lessens will give a presentation about this year's eclipse including useful tips to potential eclipse chasers and answer questions. The duo will also share information about the GRPM's eclipse event that will take place at the GRPM on August 21, 2017.

Dave DeBruyn will discuss how the motions of the sun and moon produce eclipses, but rarely total solar eclipses over a given location. Participants will learn what to look for and concentrate on during the eclipse, as well as what not to do. Dave has traveled the world to see five total solar eclipses.

George Lessens will discuss prospects for clear weather at various places along the path of totality. A weather system at the place of observation at eclipse time or midday convective cloudiness in the air could ruin viewing opportunities. Lessens will suggest locations where that is least likely to happen.

The presentation on March 1 will take place in the Grand Rapids Public Museum's Meijer Theater and is free to attend for the general public.

WZZM13 is a media sponsor for the eclipse programming at the GRPM.

Grand Rapids Public Museum



The Grand Rapids Public Museum is an invaluable, publicly-owned institution that is home to more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the history of Kent County and beyond, houses the only planetarium in the region, and is responsible for protecting the Norton Indian Mounds, a national historic landmark. The Grand Rapids Public Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, with its main location in downtown Grand Rapids, MI at 272 Pearl Street, NW. For additional information including hours of operation, admission fees and exhibit/event listings, please visit www.grpm.org.

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