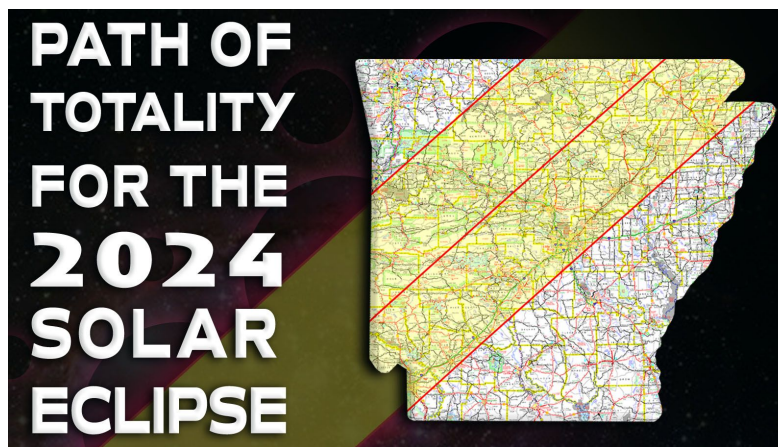




Arkansas House Newsletter

March 29, 2024

Preparing for the Eclipse



The total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, has captured the attention of Arkansans and visitors alike. The path of totality will stretch over 100 miles across The Natural State, extending from the southwest to the northeast. In some locations, lucky observers will experience over four minutes of total darkness. 53 of Arkansas' 75 counties will fall within the path of totality, including major cities like Little Rock, Hot Springs, Texarkana, Conway, and Jonesboro.

With the potential to mark the largest tourism event in state history, Arkansas agencies are leaving no stone unturned in their preparations. [The Arkansas Department of Transportation \(ARDOT\)](#) has strategically scheduled a "construction holiday" from April 4 to April 9, ensuring smooth travel with no lane closures or active construction zones. Collaborating closely with the trucking industry, [ARDOT](#) aims to minimize the presence of oversized trucks on the roads, enhancing safety for all travelers.

Meanwhile, the [Arkansas Department of Education](#) is harnessing the eclipse as a teachable moment, integrating it into science lessons and distributing one million eclipse glasses to libraries statewide. This

proactive approach not only fosters scientific curiosity but also promotes safe viewing practices among students and the general public.

In the realm of healthcare, the [Arkansas Department of Health](#) stands vigilant, leveraging its trauma communication system to swiftly address any emergencies. Collaborating closely with hospitals and first responders, the agency is working to ensure prompt access to medical facilities, should the need arise. Emphasizing the paramount importance of eye safety, the department underscores the necessity of approved solar viewing glasses, cautioning against direct sun-gazing without proper protection.

As anticipation mounts, Arkansans are encouraged to prepare themselves with essential supplies, including water, food, medications, and first aid kits, in readiness for potential service delays.

For those eager to join in the festivities, a wealth of information on local events and safety guidelines awaits at [Arkansas.com/eclipse](https://arkansas.com/eclipse).