

Eclipse Field Day at El Sauz Ranch

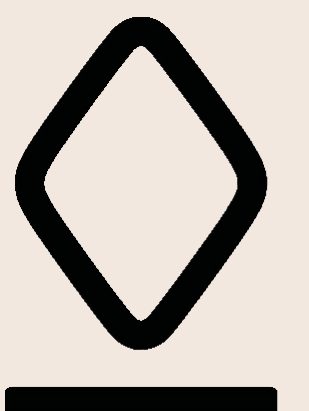


Saturday
14
October

8:00am – 4:30pm
El Sauz Ranch
East Foundation
Registration required.



Texas Master Naturalist Program
& East Foundation



El Sauz Field Day

Today's Annual Meeting is going off site, outdoors and into the field! We'll head to the East Foundation's El Sauz Ranch to view the Annular Solar Eclipse, learn from various topic speakers, eat lunch and host hands-on field-based advanced training sessions. The El Sauz Ranch hosts a unique diversity of landscapes and land management practices with active sand dunes, thornscrub brush, ocelots, an active cattle herd, university research projects, burn management plans, and so much more. Learn with us with boots on the ground!

What to Expect

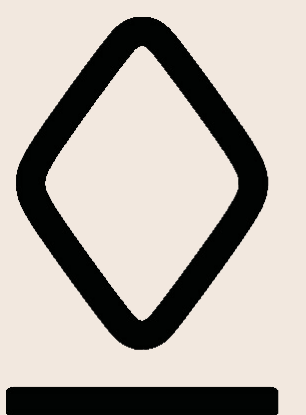
A day spent afield outdoors! We'll watch the eclipse, eat lunch and host field stations to visit. Transportation, restrooms, food, and water provided.

Eclipse 101

Eclipse safety glasses will be provided, but bring any additional safe viewing devices you'd like. We'll also have telescopes on hand.

What to Wear and Bring

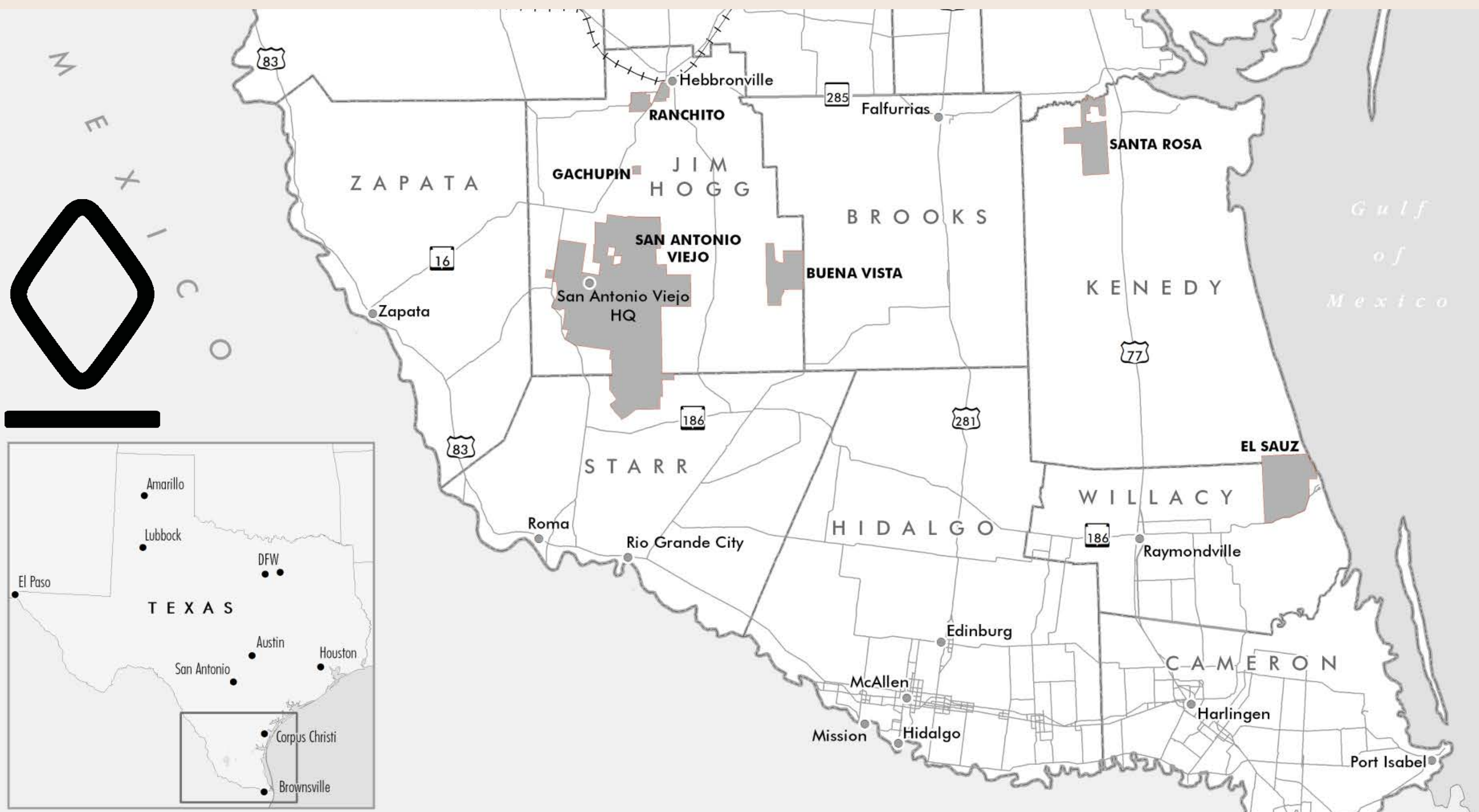
- TMN shirts or gear!
- Refillable Water Bottle
- Sunscreen and Bug Spray
- Hat and/or Sunglasses
- Snacks if wanted
- Boots or Closed-toed Shoes
- Weather Gear *if needed
- Cameras and/or Binoculars
- Your preferred Portable Device



East Foundation

Advancing Land Stewardship

East Foundation promotes the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. We manage over 217,000 acres of native South Texas rangeland, operated as six separate ranches in Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, and Willacy counties. Our land is a working laboratory where scientists and managers work together to address issues important to wildlife management, rangeland health, and ranch productivity. We ensure that all aspects of the East Foundation work together to conserve healthy rangelands. Our science, education, and ranching programs are intertwined in doing what is right for the land and the life that depends on it.



<https://eastfoundation.net/>

About El Sauz

The El Sauz Ranch is also situated within the South Texas Sand Sheet, but unlike other East Foundation properties, El Sauz is home to quickly migrating, rolling sand dunes across parts of its beautiful and diverse landscape. Sitting on the Texas coast, it straddles four unique ecoregions: 16,000 acres of Coastal Sand Plain, 6,000 acres of Laguna Madre Barrier Islands and Coastal Marshes, and 5,000 acres of Lower Rio Grande Valley. This intersection of unique ecological regions gives El Sauz a varied landscape of open water, marshes and tidal flats, coastal grasslands, low-growing live oak and mixed brush that form densely vegetated areas, and active sand dunes inching their way from the east that cover over 1,000 acres across the ranch.

The diversity of native vegetation across the sand sheet creates some of the most productive wildlife habitats of any region in the nation. The dunes on El Sauz are major influences on the landscape and contribute to the diverse wildlife habitats of the region. Like San Antonio Viejo, this area has unmanaged and un hunted populations of white-tailed deer, as well as javelinas, Rio Grande wild turkeys, bobwhite quail, and coyotes. But, unlike our other ranches, El Sauz is located on the coast and as such, the bird populations that live on El Sauz include waterfowl, like pintail and redhead ducks, as well as a variety of shorebirds.

Prescribed fire is widely used as a method of habitat management in coastal grassland ecosystems, making El Sauz an ideal location for prescribed fire research. We proudly partner with Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville to host prescribed burns, allowing us to research and determine the best season for burns, the optimal frequency of burns, and the role of prescribed fire in supporting wildlife conservation and cattle production.

<https://eastfoundation.net/>



© Ben Masters

<https://arcg.is/1ar8q9>

Behind the Gates

The East Foundation's Behind the Gates education program is multifaceted and takes place in the classroom, **on the land**, and in **partnership with** many organizations that are helping to lead the way in natural resource conservation education. They deliver programming, knowledge, and leadership skills to students in South Texas, including underserved communities, benefiting the region now and in the future.

Behind the Gates is a unique opportunity for the East Foundation's education staff to bring students from a select group of schools out for a day-long learning experiences on one of the East Foundation ranches. The interactive, Science TEKS-aligned lessons presented at Behind the Gates encourage students to connect with the natural world while participating in first-hand, outdoor learning experiences. The five guiding principles of Behind the Gates are that it promotes the advancement of land stewardship; includes science-based curriculum; implements testing methods to document comprehension and retention; deploys educators who serve as mentors for students interested in natural resource careers; and utilizes partnerships for increased success.

Every spring on the El Sauz ranch, they host more than 1,500 fifth grade students and their teachers from IDEA Public Schools in Cameron and Hidalgo counties for Behind the Gates. Students rotate through stations manned by our staff and featured partners including the Texas Zoo, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, the Museum of South Texas History, Texas Parks and Wildlife and local Texas Master Naturalists.

In 2022 the upgraded learning facility at El Sauz debuted. The new Elliff-El Sauz Education Facility now features seven education pavilions, walking trails, and supporting utilities tailor-made for our immersive learning experiences on the ranch.

<https://eastfoundation.net/>



Solar Eclipse

What is an Annular Solar Eclipse?

Annular solar eclipses take place when the Moon's disk is not big enough to cover the entire disk of the Sun, and the Sun's outer edges remain visible to form a ring of fire in the sky. An annular eclipse of the Sun takes place when the Moon is near apogee (climax), and the Moon's antumbra (shadow) falls on Earth.

Max View in Port Mansfield, Texas

Begins: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 10:27 am

Maximum: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 12:00 noon 0.949 Magnitude

Ends: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 1:40 pm

Duration: 3 hours, 13 minutes



How to View the Annular Solar Eclipse Safely?

Never look directly at the Sun. You can seriously damage your eyes, and even go blind. Proper eye protection, like eclipse glasses or a special solar filter, is the only safe option. Sunglasses don't work.

Eclipse glasses will be provided to all Annual Meeting registrants for safe viewing! A great memento to keep and use for the April 2024 eclipse crisscrossing Texas as well!

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/solar/2023-october-14>

OCTOBER 14
2023

★

APRIL 8
2024

2 GREAT TEXAN ECLIPSES

Two solar eclipses cross Texas in 6 months! This is a rare and exceptional circumstance for any particular spot on Earth. Consequently, Texas will be a magnet for perhaps several million visitors from across the nation and around the world.

Millions of people saw the total solar eclipse of August 21, 2017 which crossed the USA from Oregon to South Carolina. Nearly everyone who saw totality in 2017 agrees that it was a peak life experience and the most beautiful sight you can see in the sky. Texas is uniquely situated for a repeat experience.

On October 14, 2023, an annular solar eclipse begins over the Pacific Ocean and reaches the USA at Oregon. After passing through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, the path of annular solar eclipse bisects Texas. People near the middle of the path of annular solar eclipse will see the dramatic view of the Sun as a brilliant ring for nearly five minutes.

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse first touches the Pacific coast of Mexico at Mazatlan. After racing across Mexico, the total solar eclipse first darkens Texas at Eagle Pass. People near the middle of the path of the total solar eclipse will enjoy a generous duration of over four minutes, nearly twice the duration of totality as the August 21, 2017 eclipse.

Viewing the eclipses



Annular Solar Eclipse of October 14, 2023

The annular solar eclipse begins in Texas in the late morning. People inside the path of annular solar eclipse will have the opportunity to view the incredible sight of the Sun as a dazzling ring with a maximum duration of 4 minutes, 52 seconds.

At all stages of this eclipse, you must wear solar eclipse glasses or other safe solar viewing method. Learn to view an eclipse safely at eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety. While you will notice the sky dim and shadows become crisp, the Sun will not be completely eclipsed. Use approved solar filters securely fitted on binoculars for a dazzling show of Baily's Beads and the rolling annulus.

The eclipse will begin with a small nibble of the Moon's profile against the Sun's disk. The partial stage of eclipse will last about 1 hour and 20 minutes. The annular stage of eclipse in Texas will last up to 4 minutes and 52 seconds, as indicated on the map. After the annular stage of eclipse, the closing partial stage of eclipse will last about one hour and 20 minutes.

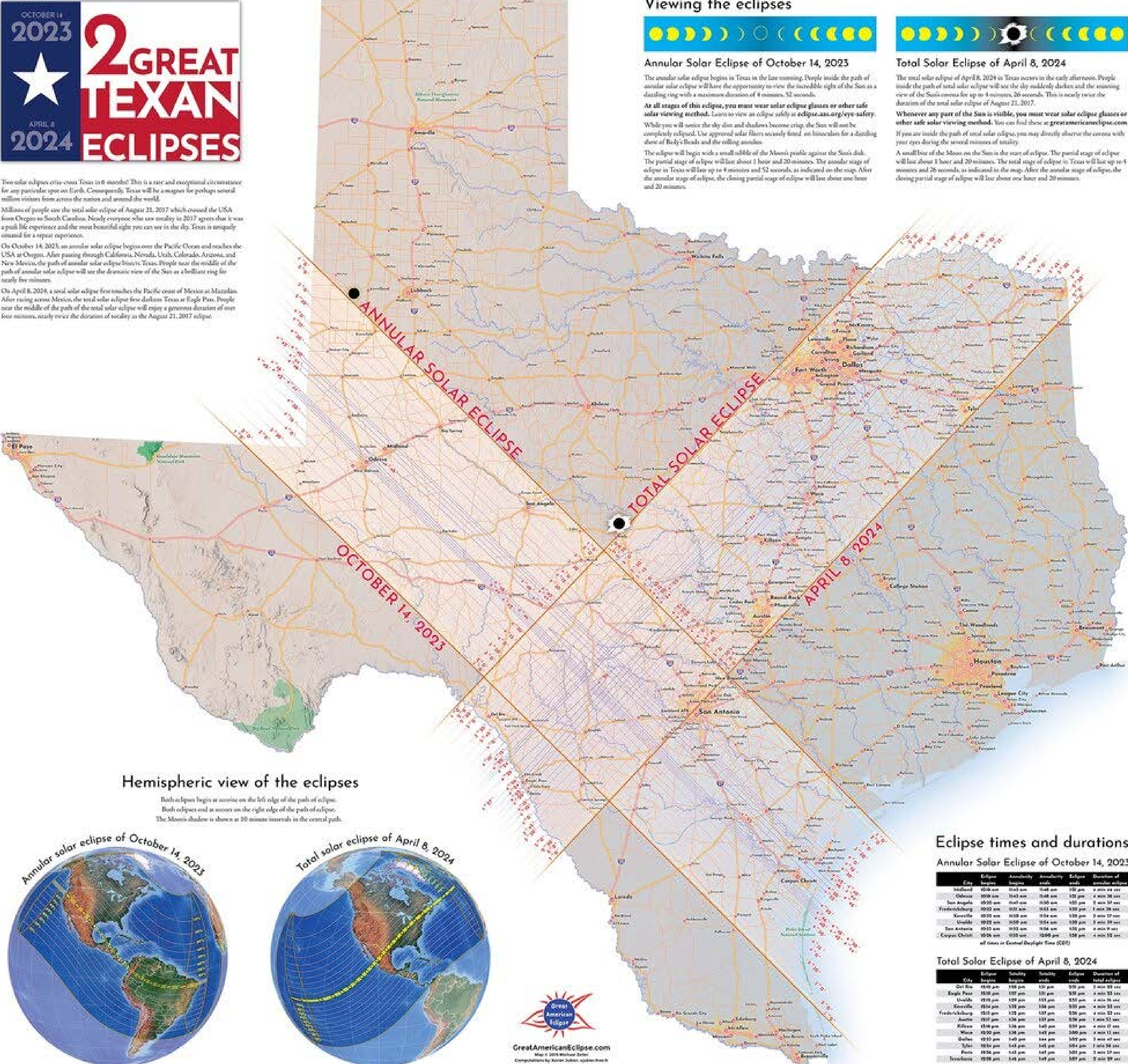


Total Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024

The total solar eclipse of April 8, 2024 in Texas occurs in the early afternoon. People inside the path of total solar eclipse will see the sky suddenly darken and the stunning view of the Sun's corona for up to 4 minutes, 26 seconds. This is nearly twice the duration of the total solar eclipse of August 21, 2017.

Whenever any part of the Sun is visible, you must wear solar eclipse glasses or other safe solar viewing method. You can find these at greatamericaneclipse.com. If you are inside the path of total solar eclipse, you may directly observe the corona with your eyes during the several minutes of totality.

A small bite of the Moon on the Sun is the start of eclipse. The partial stage of eclipse will last about 1 hour and 20 minutes. The total stage of eclipse in Texas will last up to 4 minutes and 26 seconds, as indicated in the map. After the annular stage of eclipse, the closing partial stage of eclipse will last about one hour and 20 minutes.



Hemispheric view of the eclipses

Both eclipses begin at sunrise on the left edge of the path of eclipse.
Both eclipses end at sunset on the right edge of the path of eclipse.
The Moon's shadow is shown at 10 minute intervals in the central path.



Great American Eclipse
GreatAmericanEclipse.com
Map © 2024 Michael Center
Computations by Xavier Jubier, xjubier@ceh.fr
Predictions by Fred Espenak, esp@umich.edu

Eclipse times and durations

Annular Solar Eclipse of October 14, 2023

City	Eclipse begins	Annularity begins	Annularity ends	Eclipse ends	Duration of annular eclipse
Midland	10:08 am	10:43 am	10:48 am	10:50 pm	4 min 07 sec
Odessa	10:08 am	10:43 am	10:48 am	10:50 pm	4 min 07 sec
San Angelo	10:09 am	10:43 am	10:50 am	10:51 pm	4 min 08 sec
Fredricksburg	10:09 am	10:43 am	10:51 am	10:50 pm	4 min 08 sec
Kerrville	10:09 am	10:43 am	10:51 am	10:50 pm	4 min 08 sec
Uvalde	10:09 am	10:43 am	10:51 am	10:50 pm	4 min 08 sec
San Antonio	10:09 am	10:43 am	10:51 am	10:50 pm	4 min 08 sec
Corpus Christi	10:08 am	10:43 am	10:50 am	10:50 pm	4 min 08 sec

all times in Central Daylight Time (CDT)

Total Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024

City	Eclipse begins	Totality begins	Totality ends	Eclipse ends	Duration of total eclipse
San Rio	1:10 pm	1:58 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 10 sec
Eagle Pass	1:10 pm	1:57 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 11 sec
Uvalde	1:10 pm	1:57 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 11 sec
Kerrville	1:10 pm	1:57 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 11 sec
Fredricksburg	1:10 pm	1:57 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 11 sec
Austin	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec
Killeen	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec
Waco	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec
Dallas	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec
Tyler	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec
Fort Worth	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec
Denton	1:10 pm	1:56 pm	1:59 pm	1:59 pm	3 min 12 sec

all times in Central Daylight Time (CDT)





8:00 a.m.

Rendezvous and Load Buses

Registrants will be shuttled on charter buses to the El Sauz Ranch with an hour and a half ride. Where required, individual drivers will meet on site.

10:00 a.m.

Welcome And Eclipse

Welcome to El Sauz! Learn about the property, research, and education programs from East Foundation CEO, Neal Wilkins. Hear from Astronomy professor Dr. Ryan Oelkers and NASA Educator Dorian Janney about the Annular Solar Eclipse and how to view it safely. *Eclipse glasses provided*

12:00 p.m.

Lunch and Group Photo

Lunch is provided with plenty of time to continue to view the eclipse and explore the area, iNat-ing along the way!

1:00 p.m.

Field Station Rotations

Rotate through 6 stations:

- Ocelot Research and Conservation
- Grazing on El Sauz
- South Texas Brush Ecology
- Behind the Gate Program
- Aquatic Ecology
- Birds of South Texas *pending

3:00 p.m.

Travel Home

Rest as we shuttle back to McAllen Convention Center and refresh before dinner.

6:00 p.m.

Annual Awards Dinner

Enjoy the day's final meal with us. We'll celebrate the milestone awards of our attending Master Naturalists, recognize award winners and special recognitions, and celebrate the program's annual successes.

Agenda

Field Stations

Field Station Rotation

1:00 – 3:00pm – 15 minute stations w/5 minute rotation breaks

- **Ocelot Research and Conservation**

- With over 30 individual ocelots photo–documented on its El Sauz Ranch, learn how the East Foundation along with partners is collecting data on ocelot population size, survival and mortality, movements and activity, prey abundance and food habits, habitat use, and competition with other carnivores to solidify recovery strategies.

- **Grazing on El Sauz**

- The East Foundation manages a working cattle ranch across their lands to keep directly engaged with today’s ranch managers. Learn about the challenges and issues they face while maintaining an effective and efficient balance between the land, cattle, and wildlife.

- **South Texas Brush Ecology**

- The South Texas Brush is characterized by plains of thorny shrubs and trees and scattered patches of palms and subtropical woodlands in the Rio Grande Valley. Learn about the history and ecology of the plant life

- **Behind the Gates Program**

- The interactive, Science TEKS–aligned lessons presented at Behind the Gates encourage students to connect with the natural world while participating in first–hand, outdoor learning experiences. Hear how the East Foundation hosts over 1,500 fifth graders annually and how to organize an event like this with partners in your area.

- **Aquatic Ecology**

- Learn through a hands–on experience about aquatic ecology and what educational outreach activities could be hosted at a field day, such as water quality testing, aquatic food webs, aquatic vegetation ID, fish sampling and identification, how land use affects aquatic systems and more.

- **Birds of South Texas (*pending)**

- The Rio Grande Valley hosts one of the most spectacular convergences of birds on earth. Almost 500 species have been documented in this unique place. Many breed and nest along the quiet Laguna’s, palm–fringed resacas and in the lush thorn forests. Spend some time learning about the Birds on the El Sauz and ID any that may be around.





8:00 a.m. Pop Up AT Sessions

With weather changing plans for the event, we'll host some pop-up advanced training sessions with speakers on site, host discussion rooms, and let participants free range for the morning.

10:00 a.m. Welcome And Eclipse

Learn about the El Sauz property, research, and education programs from East Foundation CEO, Neal Wilkins. Hear from Astronomy professor Dr. Ryan Oelkers and NASA Educator Dorian Janney about the Annular Solar Eclipse and how to view it safely. *Eclipse glasses provided*

Venture outside the McAllen Convention Center if willing.

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Group Photo

Lunch is provided with plenty of time to continue to view the eclipse!

1:00 p.m. Station Rotations – INSIDE

Rotate through 6 stations:

- Ocelot Research and Conservation
- Grazing on El Sauz
- South Texas Brush Ecology
- Behind the Gate Program
- Aquatic Ecology
- Birds of South Texas

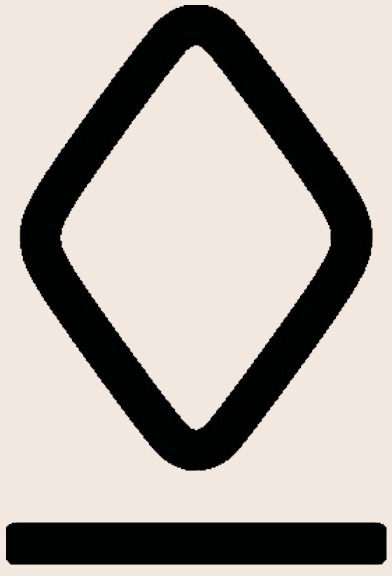
3:00 p.m. Rest and Refresh

Rest and refresh before dinner. Visit our vendors, vote in the photo, art and media contest, and shop Silent Auction items.

6:00 p.m. Annual Awards Dinner

Enjoy the day's final meal with us. We'll celebrate the milestone awards of our attending master naturalists, recognize award winners and special recognitions, and celebrate the program's annual successes.

Agenda Weather Plan



ANNUAL MEETING 2023



@alht.studio

Santa Ana
National
Wildlife Refuge

El Sauz Ranch Eclipse Field Day

Saturday
October 14, 2023

