



April 2, 2024

Contact: Donato DiRenzo
Communications Coordinator
(585) 336-7202 or ddirenzo@senecazoo.org

Seneca Park Zoo Announces Eclipse Weekend April 6-8, 2024

Seneca Park Zoo will host a full schedule of eclipse-themed events April 6 – 8, 2024.

Rochester, N.Y. – Seneca Park Zoo will host three days of eclipse-themed events to celebrate the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. All activities and events are included with Zoo admission.

The Zoo's Eclipse weekend is April 6-7th and Eclipse Day is April 8th. The schedule includes:

Interactive Programming

A Seneca Park Zoo fan-favorite, the Nature Cart, will feature Zoo Naturalist stations focusing on all things animal behavior and the eclipse. The Nature Cart will also feature a pinhole camera workshop where guests can get hands on and make their own eclipse viewing devices.

Viewing an Eclipse with Emily Rice, Astrophysicist and former Seneca Park Zoo ZooTeen

Astrophysicist Emily Rice answers guests' eclipse questions and teaches us how to properly view an eclipse. Emily is a former Seneca Park ZooTeen, coming back as a scientist to educate our community about the eclipse.

Talk and Meet and Greet with Skyler Kleinschmidt, NASA Heliophysicist

NASA Heliophysicist, Skyler Kleinschmidt, will join us Saturday, April 6 to talk to guests about the science NASA is doing during the eclipse and highlight some of the NASA missions studying the sun and its impact on the solar system. The Science Mission Directorate Heliophysics Division at NASA studies the nature of the sun, and how it influences the very nature of space, the atmospheres of planets like the earth, and the technology that exists there.

Animal Experiences

Eclipse Weekend coincides with the Zoo's Spring Break Animal Experiences, featuring

unique animal experiences all day long including snow leopard, polar bear, red panda, giraffe, penguin, sea lion, river otter and rhino programs. View the full schedule of programming here: senecaparkzoo.org/event/springbreak2024

Narrated Total Solar Eclipse Experience

NASA Heliophysicist Skyler Kleinschmidt will live narrate the eclipse as it happens on April 8th. Heliophysicists study the effects of the sun on earth and other planets and Kleinschmidt's unique expertise provides guests a "behind-the-scenes" look at the science of eclipses and the sun.

Animal Science

During the eclipse, the Zoo will also be involved in a research study that will help to determine the effects of a total solar eclipse on animal behavior. The hyperspectral audio study is in partnership with RIT's College of Imaging Science. Learn more at senecaparkzoo.org/audiomoth-eclipse.

The Zoo is opens to members at 9:30 a.m., all guests at 10 a.m., and closes at 5 p.m. with last entry at 4 p.m. On April 8, 2024, Eclipse Day, the Zoo will remain open until 6:00 p.m.

Admission tickets are just \$12 for adults and \$9 for youth. *For a full schedule of events, and for tickets, visit senecaparkzoo.org/eclipse.*

Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.