



## CITY OF ST JOSEPH HEALTH DEPARTMENT TOTAL PREPARATION INFORMATION SERIES

July 7, 2017

### LET'S GET CREATIVE!

Before we get down to the business of safety, let's have a little fun. This edition of our preparation series is going to focus on ways you can prepare by doing activities that might include a little knowledge, may sneak in a bit of preparation, but will ultimately result in fun and games while you interact with friends and family.

This first item actually takes place after the eclipse. Go to this link and describe in six words what your eclipse experience was, <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-six>. Your entry will be included on the NASA website along with other entries! The "Eclipse in Six" will be a component of a NASA time capsule to be opened on the event of the next eclipse on April 24, 2024.

Create your own Time Capsule! Since the beginning of civilization, we've been leaving clues for future generations. A time capsule is a way to do so with purpose! This can be a personal project or one you do with family or a group of friends. Think about when you may open it – will it be at the next eclipse, like NASA plans to do? You could write letters to your future selves with hopes and plans; make lists of popular things like music, subjects, books, games, etc. Commemorate 2017 with a collection of photos, memorabilia, ticket stubs, awards, and so on. You could include news clippings and headlines. Hide or bury it someplace you're sure you will be able to retrieve it! Keep GPS coordinates or consider a safety deposit box, and make a plan for your Time Capsule Reveal Party!

Looking for a smaller project? Try decorating some solar eclipse viewing glasses. Pick up a six-pack at the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau, 109 S. 4th Street, and break out the glue gun and glitter to put your

own touch on them. The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or hand-held solar viewers. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun.

Experiment with the power of solar heat. This will take patience, but the results can be fun. Use masking tape to create a silhouette on an artist’s canvas in a heart or letter or other shape. Unwrap and secure crayons with tape or a small drop of glue along the front, top edge of the canvas. Line the sides of a cardboard box with tinfoil. Place the canvas inside the box, tilted at an angle with the crayons at the top. Position the box outside where the sunlight will reflect off the tinfoil, causing the crayons to melt and the colored wax to run down the canvas. Once the colors have melted and before the wax hardens too much, remove the masking tape to reveal the shape you taped to the canvas at the beginning. The melted colors result in a waterfall effect to create an abstract art piece. The solar oven can also be used when it’s a great day for s’mores – a person cannot always be expected to wait for a campfire and the solar oven softens the chocolate and marshmallow to perfection!

A simple solar investigation for little ones uses a muffin pan as a make-shift science lab, holding a variety of objects to conduct a “Will It Melt?” experiment. Use items like beads, chocolate, crayons, ice cubes, butter, etc. Place the muffin tin in the sun and note the time. Check on the progress at regular intervals. Make it official with a timer, a chart, and help your young scientist compare and contrast the results.

The science of shadows will introduce children to some basic concepts behind the eclipse. Use shadow play to show why a smaller object can obscure a larger one, how the time of day affects shadows, and how people who are shorter can become super tall, etc. And shadow play requires nothing but imagination!

*Content support from <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/> and Pinterest*

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