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**Cosmic Picture announces awards to 19 organizations  
to conduct citizen science investigations  
as part of its giant screen film and engagement project,  
“EINSTEIN’S INCREDIBLE UNIVERSE”**

New York, NY. (January 5, 2024)

Cosmic Picture announced today that it has made awards to 19 youth-serving organizations to participate in citizen science investigations leading up to and during the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse, as part of its *Einstein’s Incredible Universe* media and education project. Each awardee will assemble a group of young people, with an emphasis on girls and young women, to collect and contribute astrophysical data for scientific study during this important astronomical event.

The awarded organizations are:

1. ExpERIEence Children’s Museum (Erie, PA)
2. Girl Scouts of Western PA (Pittsburgh, PA)
3. Girl Scout Troop 6827 (Conway, AR)
4. Girlstart (Austin, TX)
5. Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis (Indianapolis, IN)
6. Girls Inc. of Shelbyville and Shelby County (Shelbyville, IN)
7. Girls STEM Institute (Indianapolis, IN)
8. Hathaway Brown School (Shaker Heights, OH)
9. Incarnate Word High School (San Antonio, TX)
10. Imagination Station (Toledo, OH)
11. Kopernik Observatory & Science Center (Vestal, NY)
12. Kent State University (Kent, OH)
13. North Little Rock Public Library System (Little Rock, AR)
14. Open Doors Academy (Cleveland, OH)
15. Rural Community Alliance (Little Rock, AR)
16. STEAM Street (Dallas, TX)
17. Talawanda High School (Oxford, OH)
18. University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture 4-H (Little Rock, AR)
19. Urban STEM Center at the University of Akron (Akron, OH)

As part of the award, each organization sent a representative to a 3-day professional development workshop hosted by the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, OH, where they received and were trained to use state-of-the-art telescopes, cameras, and other equipment needed to safely observe and study the sun. These organizations are now training groups of youth participants along the path of totality to capture new images of the sun’s inner corona – only observable during a total solar eclipse – this coming April. The citizen science program is executed in partnership with Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale and the Dynamic Eclipse Broadcast (DEB)

Initiative, and funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA. The Great Lakes Science Center will be creating a suite of educational materials to accompany the project.

“The total solar eclipse has the power to transform young people’s interest in space science and spark new pursuits of STEM studies and careers,” said Erica Meehan, Impact Producer for *Einstein’s Incredible Universe*. “Participating youth, and young women, especially, will become part of a community designed to bolster scientific identity and build a sense of belonging in science-rich spaces. We are delighted to make this opportunity available to hundreds of young people through the *Einstein’s Incredible Universe* project.”

Said Bob Baer, Co-lead of Total Solar Eclipse 2024 Planning for SIU and Co-PI of the DEB Initiative:

“Collaborating with the *Einstein’s Incredible Universe* project allows us to extend DEB programming to new places and enable important new scientific contributions to our understanding of the sun’s atmosphere. We hope the project will excite these young people about scientific investigation and encourage them to continue exploring space science long after the eclipse.”

*Einstein’s Incredible Universe* is a major media and education program produced and distributed by Cosmic Picture, and funded in part by the National Science Foundation. The centerpiece of the project is a 2D/3D film for IMAX®- and giant-screen theaters featuring the great discoveries of Albert Einstein and modern astrophysicists who are putting his groundbreaking theories to the test. It also includes an array of education and engagement efforts, including the citizen science activities tied to the total solar eclipse.

#### About Cosmic Picture

Cosmic Picture was founded to produce and distribute the most compelling cinematic experiences possible to change people’s perception of the universe in ways never imagined. Cosmic Picture represents one of the industry’s largest libraries of top quality giant screen and fulldome films including the National Geographic library of documentaries. Past films include award-winning IMAX® and giant-screen productions and transformative environmental documentaries with tremendous social impact including Superpower Dogs, Extreme Weather, and Jane Goodall – Reasons for Hope. To discover more, visit [cosmicpicture.com](http://cosmicpicture.com).

#### About the Dynamic Eclipse Broadcasting Initiative

The Dynamic Eclipse Broadcast (DEB) Initiative is a nationwide citizen science project led by faculty and staff at SIU Carbondale to broadcast new and exciting views of eclipses. DEB creates a North American network of 70+ volunteer citizen scientist solar observation teams that receive training and will conduct coordinated solar observations leading up to and during the 2023 annular and 2024 total solar eclipses, and will broadcast images from observing sites in near real-time. The DEB Initiative follow-on projects will feature ongoing solar observations, exoplanet transit observations, variable star and asteroid light curve observations, and climate change relevant atmospheric optical depth measurements from across North America.

#### About Great Lakes Science Center

Great Lakes Science Center is one of the top ten museums in the nation as celebrated by the 2023 USA Today 10Best Readers’ Choice travel award for Best Science Museum. The Science Center is home to the NASA Glenn Visitor Center and makes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) come alive for more than 300,000 visitors a year through hundreds of hands-on exhibits, temporary exhibitions, the Cleveland Clinic DOME Theater, historic Steamship William G. Mather, daily science demonstrations, seasonal camps, and more. The Science Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution, earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, a leading provider of insight and data about the non-profit world. The Science Center is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Visit [GreatScience.com](http://GreatScience.com) for more information.

#### About the National Science Foundation

The U.S. National Science Foundation propels the nation forward by advancing fundamental research in all fields of science and engineering. NSF supports research and people by providing facilities, instruments, and funding to support their ingenuity and sustain the U.S. as a global leader in research and innovation. With a fiscal year 2023 budget of \$9.5 billion, NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 colleges, universities, and institutions. Each year, NSF receives more than 40,000 competitive proposals and makes about 11,000 new awards. Those awards include support for cooperative research with industry, Arctic and Antarctic research and operations, and U.S. participation in international scientific efforts.