

PUNCH Public Engagement Monthly Newsletter Issue 7: May 2023

Shining New Light on Diverse Views of the Sun
with our Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching Theme



Did You Know....

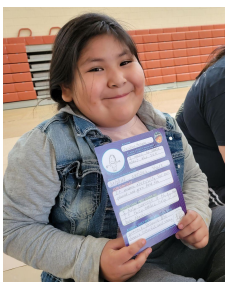
...that the observation of comet tails led to the first supposition of an outflow from the Sun that we now call the solar wind? Comets have two tails. The charged particles of the solar wind direct the ion tail (blue) away from the Sun. The dust tail responds to outward pressure from sunlight yet curves as heavier dust particles continue moving in solar orbit.



Comet NEOWISE by Zixuan Lin

Sun Fun Community Event at the Pueblo of Acoma

[PUNCH Outreach](#) collaborated with the [Pueblo of Acoma](#) (New Mexico) and the 8th grade science class at the [Haak'u Community Academy](#) to host a prototype Sun Fun Event at the Acoma Community Center on Saturday May 20th. Youth and families tested several activities. The [New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science](#) (a PUNCH institutional partner) provided solar telescope viewing. A large [solar prominence](#), much like the one shown below, helped inspire participants to celebrate the Sun!



After reading some [PUNCH Team Cards](#), Christine created her own. She chose "peacock" as the animal that inspires her to be "smart, colorful, and strong." We learned from her parents and grandmother (shown above at the solar telescope) that adults *also* enjoy creating their own Cards.



All Acoma photos by Cherilynn Morrow

This Acoma family (Melvin, Channa, and daughter Christine) earned PUNCH Outreach buttons at the Sun Fun event by participating in solar telescope viewing, [PUNCH Team Cards](#), Birthday Sunrises on a Chaco Horizon, and the successful debut of a new indoor activity using our [3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector](#). These activities and more will be released at the Albuquerque meeting of the [American Astronomical Society](#). Sign up for the newsletter and product updates [here](#).

Your Solar Photo of the Month

Every month we feature a photo [submitted by readers](#) that portrays a personal experience of the Sun.



Photo by Cherilynn Morrow

There are many ways the gift of sunrise is given in [Chaco Canyon, NM](#). My dawn walk to the [Wijiji](#) (Wih-JEE-jee) Great House on May 23rd offered this gem. The Sun pillar beckoned me to pause and pay closer attention a few minutes before this sparkling *diamond ring* of sunrise appeared in the notch.