

# PUNCH Public Engagement

## Monthly Newsletter Issue 8: Jun 2023

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



### Did You Know....

...that the science of solar physics extends back to ancient Babylonia? Cuneiform records of solar eclipses date back as far as 1375 BCE, so we know that observations of the corona pre-date the Roman republic by nearly a thousand years.

### Helping Others to Touch Chaco Culture



Photo by Jason Trump

[PUNCH Outreach](#) provided a unique 2-day excursion for ~20 astronomers and educators from around the US just prior to the June meeting of the [American Astronomical Society](#). The Day 1 trip to [Chaco Canyon](#) included a multi-sensory tour of Pueblo Bonito, the largest excavated Great House, and a visit to the ["eclipse" petroglyph](#). PUNCH Outreach Director, Cherilynn Morrow, and retired ranger, GB Cornucopia, offered a combined 45 years of experience in interpreting Chaco. They emphasized evidence for the Sun-watching mastery of the [Ancestral Puebloan](#) people and empowered participants to enrich their own eclipse outreach with stories of Chaco.

On Day 2 in Albuquerque, participants engaged with a suite of PUNCH Outreach activities. One was [Seeing the Sun's Corona with Your Hands](#), where learners explore thermoform tactile art representations of the solar corona (pictured below).

Right: Participants can feel how the structure of the corona at solar maximum compares to that at solar minimum.



Photo by Jason Trump

Left: Chaco's "eclipse" petroglyph in thermoform tactile art. Other tactiles include NASA & [HAO images](#).



### Featuring Girl Scout Prototype Patch Activities at the US Planetarium Conference in Tennessee

PUNCH Outreach convened an interactive workshop at the US Planetarium Conference (June 23) that generated excitement for our *Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching* Girl Scout patch. After experiencing a selection of the patch activities, planetarium professionals engaged in a documented discussion about what to include in our Event Planning Guide to support them in providing Girl Scout patch-earning events. Find our current [activities and facilitator guides on the PUNCH Outreach Products webpage](#). Our Mark 2 Prototype Girl Scout Patch & Event Planning Guide are combining these and other activities that are unique to Girl Scout needs and values.



### Your Solar Photo of the Month

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



This is my back patio in Albuquerque with the early afternoon sunlight filtering through the [latillas](#) in the roof. I love to sit here when this particular Sun pattern appears and I am surrounded by it. It looks like an artist's brush strokes but made with light rather than paint!