

# News Release

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## **Local Astronomy and Educational Groups to Celebrate Sun-Earth Day with a Special Event**

BATON ROUGE, LA—Five local astronomy and education groups will celebrate Sun-Earth Day on Saturday, March 25, by offering special activities and demonstrations to the public from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Mall of Louisiana.

Staff members from the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium, the Louisiana Space Consortium, LSU's Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy, the LSU Museum of Natural Science, and the BREC Observatory will team up to present activities relating to the solar eclipse, which will occur four days later in the Middle East. Mall visitors will explore the Discovery Dome portable planetarium, participate in art and science projects, and view special NASA displays. Telescope viewing of the sun with special solar filters will also take place outside the mall's main entrance near the Mobile Astronomy Resource System Van (MARS), weather permitting. Those interested in viewing this year's solar eclipse can log on to <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2006/index.php> on March 29 for a live webcam viewing of the event in Turkey.

Over the past six years, NASA's Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum has sponsored and coordinated a Sun-Earth Day observance with a series of programs occurring throughout the year and culminating in a celebration on or near the spring equinox. The day is designed to engage K–12 students and the general public in space science activities, demonstrations, and interactions with space scientists.

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