

The Solar Eclipse of 2024 at UBarU; The Reservations Line is Forming

On Monday April 8, 2024 there will be a total eclipse of the Sun visible along a path that extends from Mexico south-to-north across Texas. The center of that path (cone of totality) will be very near to UBarU, which will experience a totality (the time the Sun is completely blocked by the Moon) of approximately 4 minutes and 24 seconds (the 2017 eclipse had a maximum totality of only slightly more than 2 minutes 40 seconds visible at the darkest locations in the U.S.) So, the 2024 eclipse will provide a significantly longer experience for those fortunate enough to see it. If the 2017 was the “Great” Eclipse, 2024 will be the “Greater” Eclipse!

When UBarU began receiving requests for reservations for the eclipse some two years ago the board formed a task group to develop a plan so that the massive number of anticipated requests for reservations could be dealt with fairly with preferences given to those who have faithfully supported UBarU financially. The basic plan for accepting reservations is as follows:

1. UBarU will accept reservations only up to the maximum number of people that can be comfortably accommodated, fed and cared for at our facility. The final number may be increased slightly over current capacities if we are able to complete certain planned infrastructure upgrades and additional lodging in time.
2. Reservations will be offered first to individual UBarU-members/donors(may include churches and organizations) who, according to their points ranking as described in section 4 below, may reserve a single bunk, or cottage or private room to capacity. A basic bunk reservation may include a second bunk (and possibly more if space is available before general registration is open) to serve immediate family. A limited amount of tent and RV camping is also available depending on the total capacity that can be accommodated for the site. The Total Solar Eclipse event will begin with dinner of Saturday, April 6th and end after breakfast on Tuesday April 9th. **No other reservation types will be offered, including day-of-the-event or two-day packages.** During the full three-day event schedule, access to UBarU will be closed to anyone not

registered for the event or the support/program staff for the event (except bonified emergencies.)

There will be site-prepared meals and event programming including star parties, presentations and other activities included in the reservation packages. Prices will be aligned with those charged at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center for their 2017 eclipse event, and adjusted for escalated costs over time. Prices will be posted well in advance of the April event.

3. Reservations for the total eclipse will be available starting in the early fall prior to the event, and will be offered on a sliding, prioritized schedule, where a point system will be used to give significant and/or long-time supporters of UBarU first priority in making reservations (the same point system will also be used for reservations for the annular eclipse event.)

4. A table showing how points will be awarded is shown below, starting 01/01/2017).

UBarU Total Eclipse Points Table

Membership Level	Points/year (can change each year)	Cost
Visionary	3	\$50/mo., \$600 or more/yr.
Explorer	2	\$25/mo., \$300/yr.
Seeker	1	\$10/mo., \$120/yr.

Capital Contributions	Points (1point/\$500)
\$500	1
\$1,000	2
\$5,000	10
\$10,000	20
\$25,000	50

Examples: Visionary Membership for 6 years = 18 points plus 7 points for the total cash involved, or $18+7 = 25$ points total.

Explorer Member at \$300/year for 6 years + \$5000 in additional capital donations gives 12 points for the memberships plus 13 points for the \$6,800 of total cash involved which gives $12+13 = 25$ points total.

Note: Points awarded to organizations can be allocated to a maximum of four individuals

Points only determine a place on the priority list for the opportunity to make an event registration; NOT for FREE or DISCOUNTED Fees. If a person does not choose to make a reservation, that opportunity is passed to the next person/organization on the points priority list.

*Churches and organizations may accumulate points just like individuals through share-the-plate offerings and other congregation/organization-affiliated donations.