



## Visitors enjoy museum eclipse events

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Charissa Nelson, 6, shoots an arrow from a straw during a STEM event at the Museum of Idaho after the total solar eclipse over Idaho Falls on Monday. John Roark / [jroark@postregister.com](mailto:jroark@postregister.com)



Visitors to the Museum of Idaho ride an exercise bike for astronauts to stay in shape in zero gravity, Monday afternoon.  
Exercise John Roark / [jroark@postregister.com](mailto:jroark@postregister.com)



Kamyryn Anderson, Ethan Anderson, and Trisha Anderson race balloons during a STEM event at the Museum of Idaho after the total solar eclipse over Idaho Falls on Monday. John Roark / [jroark@postregister.com](mailto:jroark@postregister.com)

**By KEVIN TREVELLYAN**  
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A handful of tourists continued to mill around Idaho Falls after Monday's total solar eclipse, enjoying the Museum of Idaho's offerings for visitors who didn't want to sit in traffic after the celestial event.

Dozens of children took advantage of an Idaho National Laboratory-sponsored science, technology, engineering and math workshop at the museum's education center.

Kids played with a crackling static electricity orb. Others placed paper cups and bowls into a makeshift plastic wind tunnel, only to see them shoot out the top.

One station allowed children to make rockets using straws and paper fins.

“That was my favorite activity,” Sophia Nelson, 10, said. Nelson visited Idaho Falls from Alexandria, Va.

“I think these activities are really awesome. We don’t get to learn much science where I live,” she said.

Chellie Skoog took her niece, Sophia, and daughters to the STEM workshop after grabbing lunch following the eclipse.

“They’re really into science so these activities are right up their alley. It gives them a chance to be creative, which is great on lots of levels,” Skoog said. “It lets them see the world through a different set of eyes.”

Ethan Anderson, 12, of Idaho Falls, enjoyed a balloon race station. He also was glad to view the eclipse in the first place.

“I’m glad Idaho Falls got to be in the line of totality, that we were the lucky people,” he said.

Families streamed between the workshop and a space exhibit at the museum, which was one of four national NASA Official Viewing Locations.

Displays featured moon meteorites and astronaut uniforms.

Crowds regularly gathered at an exercise “space bike” on the lower level. Three volunteers at a time were latched into the bike, which was designed to allow astronauts to exercise in zero-gravity space. As participants pedaled, the contraption spun on a horizontal axis.

Mike Tovar and his family stopped at the museum while traffic to Salt Lake City died down. He appreciated its timeliness.

“It’s a cool exhibit, and very related to the eclipse. So it seems very appropriate for viewing after the eclipse experience,” he said. “It’s well put together.”

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