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WKU Students create app to calculate the sun's shape during total solar eclipse

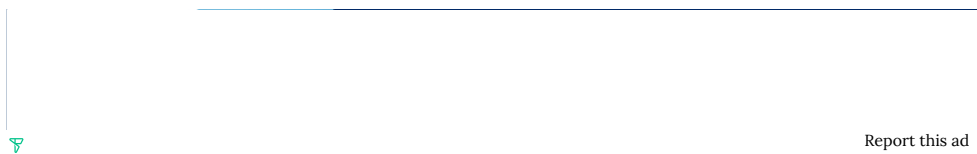
Mar 5, 2024

BOWLING GREEN, KY — A group of students at Western Kentucky University are working with NASA to develop and test a new app that will collect images of the sun during the total solar eclipse on April 8.

The app called Sunsketcher invites anyone watching the eclipse to take a photo of the sun from their phone. All the photos taken will be sent to a server on WKU's campus, and the data will be used to make the most precise calculation ever made of the sun's shape.

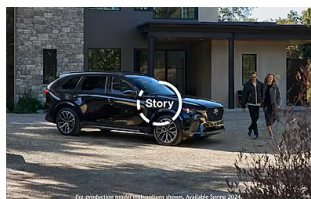
Gordon Emsile, a professor of physics at WKU, says, "This is your chance to make a unique contribution to a NASA science project, and you may have never thought in your entire life that you'd be able to do that but this is your big chance, so go enjoy and experience the eclipse."

At least five minutes before the eclipse, you will need to open the app and prop your phone up against a steady surface with the camera facing toward the sun. You don't need to put any kind of filter over the camera lens, but you shouldn't move the phone until the eclipse is over.



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