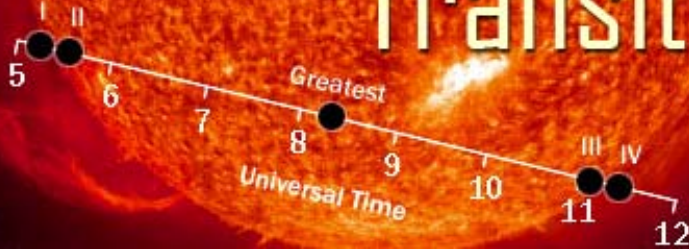




Venus



Transit of Venus

June 5, 2012

Last chance in your lifetime to view it!

When Venus passes directly between earth and the sun, we see the distant planet as a small dot gliding slowly across the face of the sun. Historically, this rare alignment is how we measured the size of our solar system.

The Transit of Venus: June 5, 2012 from 3-5pm at the Paso Robles Park in the Farmer's Market. All ages.

The Central Coast Astronomical Society will be setting up their special solar telescopes so you can view the sun safely.



A transit of Venus is the observed passage of the planet across the disk of the sun. The planet Venus, orbiting the sun "on the inside track," catches up to and passes the slower earth. Venus will move from left to right across the sun. The word "transit" means passage or movement—in this case, across the face of the sun. If Venus and the Earth orbited the sun in the same plane as the sun, transits would happen frequently. However, the orbit of Venus is inclined to the orbit of earth, so when Venus passes between the

sun and the earth every 1.6 years, Venus usually is a little bit above or a little bit below the sun, invisible in the sun's glare.

This will be the last transit of Venus to occur in your lifetime!

Today, the transit of Venus as a means to measure the sun-earth distance is largely of historical interest, for tools such as radar have measured distances to planets much more accurately. In modern times, astronomers seek transits of planets around distant stars. New planets are already being discovered this way. Once again transits will help us to find out where we fit in the big picture of our universe.

First 200 viewers get a FREE solar viewer to take home!

Get your free "Guide to the Universe" by NASA when you view this event!

This event is sponsored by the Central Coast Astronomical Society and the North County Farmer's Markets. Contact Sandra for more information at:

(805) 748-1109



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