

World of Energy free events to start Friday

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Duke Energy's World of Energy education center at Oconee Nuclear Station is celebrating the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse with a weekend of free presentations before the Monday afternoon eclipse.

The World of Energy is expecting a large crowd, but manager Chris Rimel says "we're welcoming the crowd since we have enough beautiful land that happens to be in the center of the eclipse path."

The World of Energy sits on more than 30 acres where the woods meet the water of Lake Keowee. Much of the land is open, including the sloping front lawn of the World of Energy that will be angled toward the eclipse as it enters South Carolina.

"That land in particular is a great place to watch the eclipse,"

Rimel said. "But that's equaled by our back lawn and lakefront point."

Visitors are welcome to bring food, lawn chairs, blankets and water. The Oconee Nuclear Station Relay for Life team and United Way team will sell concessions, including water, hot dogs, snow cones and ice cream, and the station's Women In Nuclear team will be on hand to volunteer with the events.

Parking will likely be limited given the number of expected visitors. Parking will be available on Oconee Nuclear Station's reserve parking across S.C. Highway 130 (Rochester Highway) and other nearby sites, and visitors be bused to the World of Energy.

Rimel said the World of Energy in recent days has received queries about watching the eclipse from the property from callers as far as New Jersey, Pennsylvania

and Florida.

At 10 a.m. on Aug. 18, recently retired NASA deputy chief technologist Jim Adams will give a talk at the World of Energy about human habitation on Mars. "How will we do it? How will we power a human community on Mars? When will it happen?"

During his tenure at NASA, Adams was responsible for a \$1.5 billion budget with a portfolio of spaceflight operations, including the Mars Science Laboratory and missions to Pluto and Mercury and asteroids Ceres and Vesta. He has been awarded three medals for outstanding service by NASA.

Adams' talk will be followed by a public reception.

At 2 p.m. on Aug. 20, Rimel will give a presentation on "The Carolina Eclipse of 1900." The total eclipse of the sun drew dozens of scientists to the Carolinas from

across the United States.

The World of Energy will open at 7 a.m. on the day of the eclipse Aug. 21.

At 10 a.m., Rimel will again present the "The Carolina Eclipse of 1900," hours before the long-anticipated beginning of the 2017 eclipse.

A disc jockey will add flair to the day, with a playlist centered on the moon and sun. Songs like "Moon River" and "Blue Moon" will be heavy in the rotation, as will "Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me" and "Here Comes the Sun."

Inside the World of Energy will be a live-stream television broadcast of NASA's eclipse website.

"We thought it would be a cool thing to have people see in real-time the darkness of the eclipse as it speeds across the country," Rimel said. "And then walk outside and see the twilight

before eclipse

descending here, turning into total night, see the stars come out, and then back to twilight, then finally, day returns."

Adams will also narrate the eclipse on the World of Energy grounds through a public-address system when the eclipse darkening begins at 1:08 p.m. on Aug. 21.

The Spartanburg Photo Guild will be on site to take photos of the eclipse.

Guild leader Paul Halphin said he found the World of Energy to be "the perfect site" to snap images of the total solar eclipse. The guild will develop the photos for an art exhibition in September at the World of the Energy. More details on the eclipse art show will follow.

For more information, contact the World of Energy at (864) 873-4600 or visit www.duke-energy.com/worldofenergy.