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# Chasing The Storm: Tornadoes, Meteorology, And Weather Watching (Nonfiction - Young Adult)



## Synopsis

"Huge, towering clouds build up in the sky it's a super cell. The Doppler radar indicates that the system is rotating. But is there a funnel? Is it touching the ground? Only a storm chaser can confirm when a tornado is present and help meteorologists warn nearby towns. Whenever severe weather threatens, storm chasers hit the road to hunt for tornadoes, hurricanes, or violent storms. Some drive thousands of miles in just a few days as they follow a storm system from Iowa to Texas. Others serve their cities and towns by taking photos from their backyards and phoning in storm details to local weather stations. Specially trained Hurricane Hunters hop into aircraft packed with scientific instruments to fly deep into powerful hurricanes, hoping to reach the eye of the storm. Are storm chasers a bunch of foolish daredevils? Not at all. Many are scientists while others are professional photographers and videographers. Storm chasers arm themselves with training about severe weather, use sophisticated instruments, and follow safety guidelines. In *Chasing the Storm*, you'll meet real storm chasers and meteorologists, hear their stories, and discover how they do their work. You'll learn tornado basics, get a great window into the science of meteorology, and learn how to pursue a career in the field. You might even decide to become a storm chaser yourself!"

## Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 14 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7 • The opening chapter of this book covers a day in the life of storm chaser, which is by turns exciting, frustrating, and scary. Subsequent chapters explore related topics: the makings of a tornado, reasons for recent extreme weather, meteorology, agencies that watch weather, and careers in the field. It turns out that storm chasing is not as glamorous or as lucrative as television would have viewers believe, but it is still a viable hobby or potential career for extreme weather fans. A few experiments (water vapor and greenhouse effect) and instructions for building a weather station with household objects are included. Color photographs of storm chasers at work, lightning bolts, dust devils, and the aftermath of recent storms help to create an attractive package. Unfortunately, some awkwardly worded sentences, missing words, and repetition of information make for a confusing read at times. The storm-chaser angle is an interesting way to introduce weather, but the problems mentioned above lessen its value; purchase where more on the topic is needed. • Heather Acerro, Rochester Public Library, MN

Since 2011, devastating killer tornadoes across the central swath of the U.S. have almost become commonplace. Following the rare 2011 EF5-level tornado that hit Joplin, Missouri, another EF5 struck Moore, Oklahoma, in 2012. Only one month later, in the same state, three trained storm chasers were killed in a tornado. Although curiosity seekers still chase storms, trained storm chasing is now a recognized segment of science, albeit a dangerous one. With the advent of newer meteorological equipment and techniques, earlier warning systems are in place, alerting more people more quickly and saving untold lives. Miller cites global warming and increased carbon dioxide levels as major contributors to extreme weather, and he outlines the role of meteorologists and the role meteorology plays in storm prediction. Accessible text, engaging diagrams, and dynamic photographs make this a surefire hit for budding scientists and their teachers. Back matter includes instructions for creating a weather station and what's needed for a weather emergency kit. Grades 5-8. --J. B. Petty

My grandson is very interested in this subject and is enjoying this book very much:)

Grandson says he is reading the book.

The sky is dark, but the signs of an impending storm are there. Internet sites are abuzz with action, including ones like the Storm Prediction Center in Oklahoma. Tensions are high, but excitement among the storm chasers is higher. There might be a lot of driving and having a

GPS (Global Positioning System) device to keep track of exactly where you are in relation to the storm. It is a must have. Perhaps if you are lucky, you will spot some of those "towering clouds that indicate the formation of a supercell. Luck is the word for it because sometimes it takes a hundreds of miles of driving just to spot one. The life of a storm chaser can be an exciting one, but also fraught with danger. It is a good way to get killed, especially if you don't know what you are doing, but it can happen even if you do. There may be an element of luck involved, but a good storm chaser knows a lot about the weather. In this book you will listen to storm chaser tell their tales, but on May 31, 2013, there were three that never lived to tell theirs. Three storm chasers, Tim Samaras, Paul Samaras, and Carl Young were killed by a powerful tornado in Oklahoma. They were professional storm chasers, but their luck ran out when the path of a storm suddenly changed. In addition to that GPS, there are many other "tools of the chase. For example, most storm chaser travel with tablets and laptop computers, cameras, and instruments for measuring wind speed, temperature, and air pressure. You will find out what other type of things storm chasers need to know, including what makes a good tornado and the signs of one. Not much to know about one you say? There is actually a lot to learn about tornados, the weather, and the need for storm chasers is critical. According to George Kourounis, "One thing that storm chasers are great for is sending in our storm reports to the authorities. In this book, just like those storm chasers, you will learn all about those tornadoes, meteorology, and weather watching. Do you have what it takes to be a storm chaser? This is an excellent book that will thrill the young wannabe storm chaser or weather aficionado. The thrill and high interest portion of the book, of course, lies in the initial storm chasing section. Subsequent chapters discussing the science behind tornados, weather, the scoop on meteorology, and other ways the average person can "officially participate as a weather watcher are more science oriented ones. However, the author does emphasize that in-the-know storm chasers need to know the science behind the storm in order to be effective. Young people can potentially participate in such programs as Skywarn or become a Cooperative observer (COOP). In the back of the book is an excellent section on creating a weather station, one on putting together a weather emergency kit, an index, a glossary, source notes, a selected bibliography, and additional recommended book and website resources to explore. There are free complementary educational resources that can be downloaded from the publisher's website. This book courtesy of the publisher.

Have you wondered what it would be like to be in the middle of a violent storm? If the thought of this produces an adrenalin rush, then the job of storm chaser might be right up your alley (as in, Tornado Alley). This 64-page book describes what a storm chaser does and sees, and the dangers that the job can bring. The effects of global warming on the environment and in extension, on weather patterns, will have preteens wondering how then can help reduce their own negative impact on the earth. Ever heard of a gustnado? The differences between those whirlwinds, waterspouts, landspouts, and dust devils is explained (although not one of these terms is listed in the glossary, which is where young readers would expect to find them; only waterspouts and landspouts are listed in the index. The book is quite current, with information from the 2013 tornado season. Included are instructions for making a weather station and a list of supplies needed for a severe weather emergency kit. A fine resource for young scientists ages 10-13.

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