Chris Broyles

Mesoscale / Outlook Forecaster
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Chris Broyles is a meso/outlook forecaster at the NOAA Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

He attended St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas, before transferring to the University of Northern Colorado where he earned Bachelor degrees in meteorology and journalism.

Chris began his National Weather Service career in 1994 as a meteorological intern in the Jackson, Kentucky, forecast office. He then served as a journeyman forecaster in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Amarillo, Texas, before joining the SPC in 2003.

An expert in tornado outbreak forecasting, Chris issued 12 High Risk Outlooks, with ten verified successfully, between 2004 and 2021.

Chris enjoys creating new forecasting resources. From 2005 to 2008, Chris created the Significant Tornado Event Probability (STEP), a complex statistical model to help forecasters better anticipate tornado outbreaks in the United States. And from 2007 to 2012 he led a team of 20 people who developed the Violent Tornado webpage to show meteorological, observational and climatological data for more than 200 tornado outbreaks in United States history. He also has co-authored 3 formal peer-reviewed publications and lead-authored 6 informal conference preprints focusing on studying violent tornado occurrence.

He received a Department of Commerce Silver Medal for initiating the first ever Day 2 High Risk for a major tornado outbreak in the southeastern U.S. on April 7, 2006. The event included 56 tornadoes, three killer tornadoes with 10 deaths and two EF3+ tornadoes. On April 14, 2012, he initiated the second Day 2 High Risk for a major tornado outbreak in the southern and central Plains. The event included 86 tornadoes, one killer tornado that caused six deaths, and six EF3+ tornadoes.

Favorite quote: "When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost." Billy Graham