



## SANDIA MOUNTAIN NATURAL HISTORY CENTER

1801 Mountain Rd., Albuquerque, NM 87104  
Tel: 505-281-5259 [susan.davis@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.davis@state.nm.us) Fax: 505-286-5433



Dear New Mexican Teachers:

School Year 2007/2008

We are excited to have the opportunity to work with you and your students this year at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC). Your students are scheduled to visit the SMNHC for the Ecology Field Program. ***If any of the information you've given the Center changes (number of classes, time at the Center, etc.) please let us know as soon as possible. Also please let us know if you have students with special needs coming to the Center (e.g. wheelchairs).***

**Please review this letter and the attached clothing/equipment list, information sheet, and map so you are prepared for the trip; also please distribute to other teachers at your school coming to the Center. The parent letters should be copied and sent to parents with children visiting the Center. Thank you very much!**

*Ecosystems Everywhere: NM Ecosystems CD* contains a **free ecology curriculum** written by the SMNHC faculty which prepares students for the Ecology Day and reinforces ecology concepts learned at the Center. It includes our new *Sandia Mini-Curriculum*, as well as our *Ecosystems Explorations* curriculum (revised). Filled with a wide variety of activities and lessons, it can be used in its entirety or lesson-by-lesson. A recent study indicates that student understanding of ecology concepts increases significantly after having participated in both the Ecology Field Program (the program your child(ren) will participate in) and *Ecosystem Explorations* (*Sandia Mini-Curriculum* is new). You can download the curricula and look for updates on our **website**. Let us know if you have trouble downloading the curriculum. Kits for our curriculum are available (free) through the Center, and we offer teacher workshops as well.

Public program days are also listed on our website. We are open to the public the first Saturday of the month, 9AM – 3PM (March through September) with special topics each day!

We are pleased to announce that the SMNHC, recipient of the EPA award for Excellence in Environmental Education, has a wheelchair accessible trail. Please inform us if you have students visiting the Center in wheelchairs, or students with other special needs or medical concerns (i.e. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or bee-sting allergies).

Our program is 4 ½ hours long. We recommend that the buses remain at the SMNHC during the day, in case of emergency. When you schedule the buses it's a good idea to get a written contract which includes the time period for which you have the buses.

In the event of **rain or light snow**, we will continue the program. However, if harsh weather adversely affects road conditions and Albuquerque Public **East Mountain** Schools are canceled or delayed our programs are canceled. We will try to reschedule your school for another date. Please contact us for scheduling or other concerns at (505) 281-5259 or [susan.davis@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.davis@state.nm.us). More information is available on our website: <http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/smnhc/>!

Thank you! Preparation for this field trip will make it a more enjoyable and effective learning experience. **We look forward to your visit!**

Sincerely,  
Susan Davis  
SMNHC Instructional Coordinator

# Welcome to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

We are looking forward to your visit!  
Please read the following information:

- Students need to be **dressed appropriately** for the weather and hiking. We hike **outside** unless the weather is very bad.
- Bring **water bottles** for the trail – no trail snacks.
- Students will need **paper, pencil, and bag lunches;** **backpacks and nametags** are also very helpful.
- Advise us in advance of students' **special medical or physical needs.**
- **You are responsible for your students' discipline** while at the SMNHC. At least one chaperone is necessary: we suggest five.
- **The enclosed parent letters** contain important information about trip preparation: send home to parents early.
- The program is almost never cancelled due to ***Weather*** unless APS "East Mountain Schools" are on a **two-hour delay** or **closed**. Call if you are not sure.
- **No smoking allowed. Cell phone use prohibited during program.**

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the SMNHC at **281-5259** or e-mail [susan.davis@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.davis@state.nm.us)

**DIRECTIONS TO THE**  
**SANDIA MOUNTAIN NATURAL HISTORY CENTER**

From Albuquerque, follow I-40 east through Tijeras Canyon. Take the Cedar Crest Exit (175) and follow State Highway North 14 through Cedar Crest. Watch for the Conoco Station on the right and the coffee shop on your left, approximately 3 miles from I-40. Turn left immediately after the coffee shop onto Columbine Lane (dirt road). Follow Columbine Lane approximately 1 mile to the Center. Columbine Lane ends at the Center.

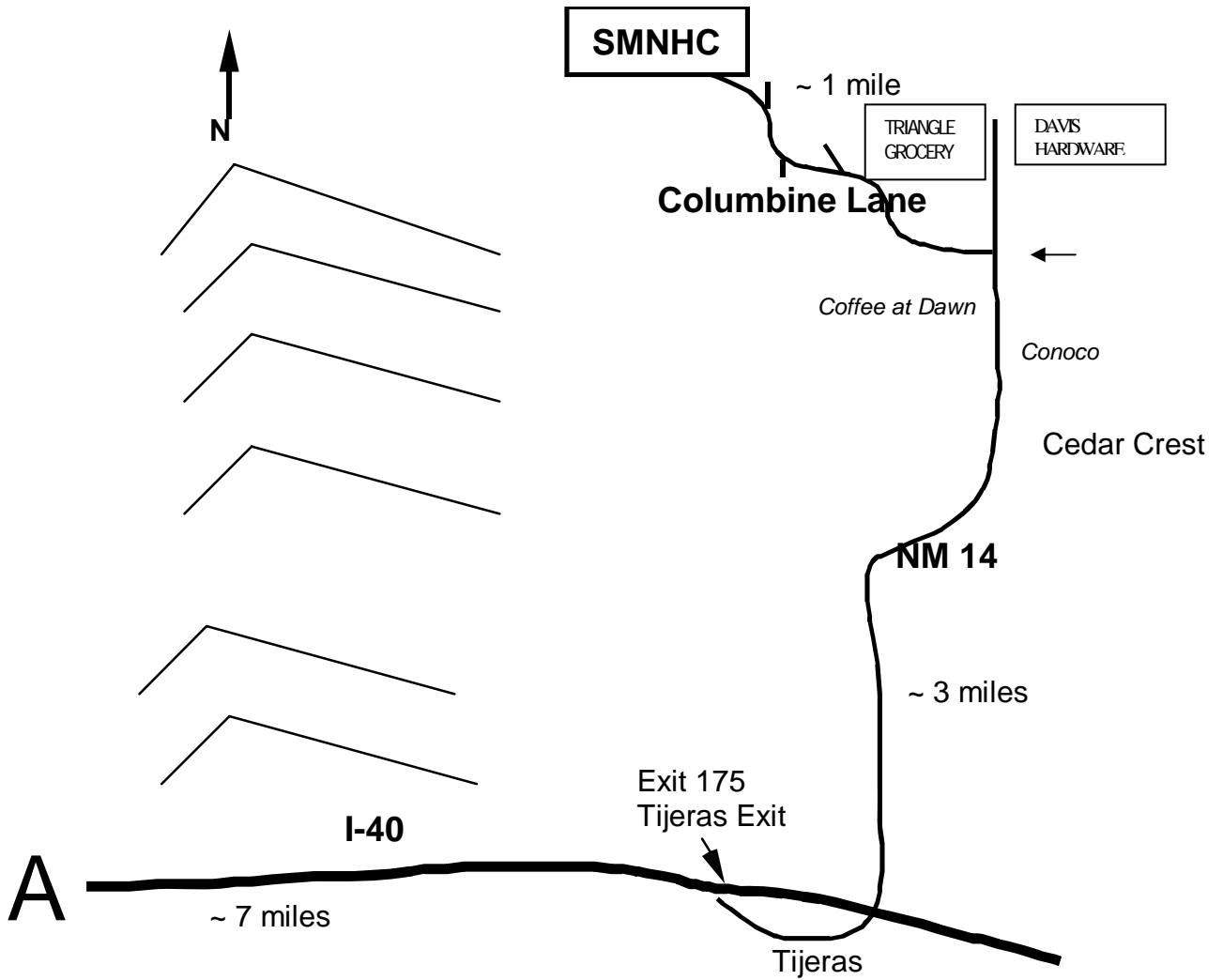
**\*\*Please note that the SMNHC and trails are not open to the public except during public programs\*\***

Sandia Mountain Natural History Center Address:

60 Columbine Lane  
Cedar Crest, NM  
Center Tel. Number: 281-5259

Mailing Address:

1801 Mountain Rd NW  
New Mexico Museum of Natural History  
Albuquerque, NM 87104



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child's class is scheduled for a visit to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center in Cedar Crest, New Mexico. The Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC) is operated by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. This trip provides students with an opportunity to learn about ecology, geology, and natural history in the Sandia Mountains. Your child's class will be visiting the Center on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make sure your child is prepared to hike and learn outside! We spend as much time outside as possible, even in rain or snow (we do have heated classrooms if needed). The SMNHC is usually cooler than Albuquerque and snow or rain can occur at any time. Students participate in a vigorous 2-hour guided hike and outdoor activities. The hiking trail is appropriate for students, but sections are rocky or steep.

Students should dress appropriately. It is very important that you review the clothing and equipment lists below carefully! Necessities include comfortable walking shoes, water bottle, lunch, warm clothes (layers), notebook, and pencil!

## What to Bring

### **Clothing Suggestions**

*(New clothes / shoes are not recommended: the mountains can be muddy.)*

- Dress in layers
- Long pants
- Rain jacket (a heavy-duty garbage bag will work)
- Heavy jacket (or sweatshirt / jacket in September or May)
- Warm hat and gloves
- Sun hat

### **Additional Items Students Should Bring**

- Backpack (not wheeled) to carry jacket, water bottle, & notebook on the hike
- Bag lunch
- Water bottle
- Notebook and pencil
- Sunscreen (if desired)

### **Please Do Not Bring**

- Glass containers
- Gum
- Electronic devices (including gameboys and music players)

Thank you! Your attention to preparing for this field trip will make it an enjoyable and successful learning experience. We look forward to your child's visit to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center!

Sincerely,  
Sandia Mountain Natural History Center Teaching Staff

## **Estimados padres de la familia o guardianos:**

La clase de su hijo/a va a visitar el **Centro de la Historia Natural de las Montañas Sandias** en Cedar Crest, New Mexico. Durante este paseo los estudiantes van a tener la oportunidad para descubrir la historia natural de las Montañas Sandias y aprender de algunos conceptos ecológicos y geológicos en el medio ambiente. El paseo al Centro llevará acabo el

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El Centro de la Historia Natural de las Montañas Sandias está manejado por el Museo de la Historia y las Ciencias de Nuevo Mexico.

Los estudiantes tienen que ser preparados por el paseo a las montañas durante lo cual van a caminar y estudiar en el aire libre. Por lo general el tiempo afuera en el Centro está diez grados más frío de la temperatura en Albuquerque. Es posible tener nieve o lluvia en cualquier momento. Aunque tenemos salones con calentadores, pasaremos la mayoría del tiempo afuera incluyendo cuando está lloviendo o cayendo nieve ligeramente. Pasaremos dos horas caminando por los senderos en la montaña con una guía del Centro. Aunque hay areas rocosas y dos secciones con pendientes, los senderos son apropiados por caminantes novicios.

Los estudiantes deben de poner ropa apropiada. Es necesario que cada estudiante lleva pantalones largos y zapatos comodoss para caminar(no sandalias o zapatos con suelas suaves). Al fin de esta carta está puesta una lista de la ropa apropiada y el equipaje necesario.

Los estudiantes necesitan llevar lonche en bolsa con algo para tomar. Favor de no incluir chicles, dulces o recipientes del vidrio. También, juegos electrónicos como Gameboys o Walkmans son prohibidos en el Centro.

### **Lista de Ropa Apropiada**

- pantalones largos
- zapatos comodoss para caminar
- sueter o jaqueta ligera
- impermeable o una bolsa grande de plástico
- sombrero o gorra para el sol
- jaqueta calurosa (octubre - mayo)
- sombrero caluroso y guantes (octubre - mayo)
- bolsitas de plástico para poner adentro de los zapatos para mantener los pies secos cuando hay nieve o lluvia(bolsas de pan sirven bien)

### **Equipaje Necesario**

- una mochila o una bolsa de gimnasio para llevar una jaqueta, una botella de agua y un cuaderno durante el paseo
- su lonche
- una botella de agua
- un cuaderno y un lápiz
- un tubo de crema para el sol para no quemarse

Favor de averiguar que su hijo/a está preparado/a por el paseo para asegurar una buena experiencia. Estamos esperando la visita de su hijo/a al Centro de la Historia Natural de las Montañas Sandias.

Sincerámente,

El cuerpo docente del Centro de la Historia Natural de las Montañas Sandia

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child's class will be visiting the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC) in Cedar Crest for a one-day environmental education field trip. In order for this trip to happen, we need an additional parent chaperone to accompany the class. If you are available on the day that your child's class visits the SMNHC, we would appreciate your assistance.

Parent chaperones accompany the class in all activities and hikes at the SMNHC. Activities and hikes are lead by an environmental educator from the SMNHC. Classroom teachers assist students and provide necessary discipline. For safety reasons, we need one parent chaperone to accompany the class because much of the learning takes place outside.

Parent chaperones hike with the class on a two-mile hiking trail. The hike is appropriate for novice hikers, but does contain rocky and steep sections. Chaperones will be spending most of the school day outdoors and must be willing to participate in all group activities. For safety reasons chaperones must not bring any other children with them. Cell phone use (except emergency) and smoking are prohibited.

For liability reasons, a teacher must accompany the group on all activities; therefore, if a student becomes ill during the day, the parent chaperone may be asked to watch that student.

We hope this trip is one of the highlights of the year! If you would like to share this experience with your child, have an opportunity to learn about the natural history of the Sandias, and spend the day hiking in the mountains, please sign this letter and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

Thanks for your time and effort!

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Yes, I am interested in participating in the fifth-grade field trip to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimados padres de la familia o guardianos:**

La clase de su hijo/a va a visitar **el Centro de la Historia Natural de las Montañas Sandias** en Cedar Crest, New Mexico. El paseo al Centro llevará acabo el \_\_\_\_\_ . No podimos tener el paseo sin la ayuda de los padres o guardianos. Si tenga tiempo disponible, nos aprecia su ayuda.

Los acompañañtes participan en todas las actividades del paseo, incluyendo la caminata. Un instructor del Centro guia las actividades y la caminata mientras que el maestro o la maestra del clase participa para asistir los estudiantes y para proveer disciplina. Para asegurar la seguridad de todo mientras que estamos en el medio ambiente necesitamos mantener una proporción de 1:12 de adultos a estudiantes, por lo cual necesitamos su ayuda en el paseo.

Es necesario que los acompañañtes quedan con la clase durante la caminata que dura dos horas y es dos millas de largo. Aunque hay areas rocosas y dos secciones con pendientes, los senderos son apropiados por caminantes novicios. No es posible que los acompañañtes lleguen sus hijos menores porque las actividades del día son demasiado dificiles.

Por obligaciones de la seguridad de la clase, el maestro o la maestra necesita quedar con su clase todo el tiempo, por lo tanto si un estudiante se ponga enfermo durante el día, un acompañañte queda con este estudiante hasta que pueda arreglar otro cuidado por el estudiante.

¡Ojalá que este paseo sea un evento notable por los estudiantes! Si tenga tiempo disponible, Ud puede pasar el día con su hijo aprendiendo muchas cosas de las montañas.

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Sí, puedo acompañar la clase de quinto grado en su paseo al Centro de la Historia Natural.

Su nombre \_\_\_\_\_

El nombre de su hijo \_\_\_\_\_

Su numero de teléfono \_\_\_\_\_