Science Sponsors Give the Gift of Science Education

More than 900 students were given the gift of an Asombro science education program in the last two months! Generous donors to our inaugural Science Sponsors campaign overwhelmed us with their quick response to our call for support in August.

Science Sponsors donate $100 per classroom science lesson to cover these costs. That donation gives a classroom of children a one-hour, hands-on science lesson with Asombro’s talented staff. Science Sponsors receive notes from the children and/or their teacher as well as the knowledge that they helped bring the wonder of science to local children.

We developed Science Sponsors to meet the need of local classes that are unable to afford even the modest fees for Asombro programs. As a nonprofit with donated office space and utilities, Asombro keeps program costs low. However, we need to cover the costs of travel, staff time, lesson development, equipment, and consumable supplies.

Seed money for the development and launch of Science Sponsors was generously provided by the New Mexico Children’s Foundation.

The demand for sponsored programs is going to quickly outstrip our current resources. Please consider becoming a Science Sponsor. Visit the Asombro website (www.asombro.org) and click on the Science Sponsors link to learn more about the program and to make a secure, online donation.

One donor suggested that he might give a Science Sponsor donation as a Christmas gift to his friend “who has everything.” What a great gift that keeps on giving!

“Our first grade team is so excited about bringing science to life for our students… We feel that the lessons you present will be a huge step in helping our first graders to start engaging their minds toward scientific thinking.”

A local teacher applying for a sponsored class program

I feel so sciency! I love using the science tools and collecting data!

A 9th grade student during Asombro lesson
Stepping Out for Science Education Expands to 8th Grade

This school year marks the first time Asombro will be working with all of Las Cruces Public Schools’ 8th grade students as a part of our Stepping Out for Science Inquiry Program. After working with 7th graders for more than five years, we are elated to have the opportunity to expand our reach into 8th grade. We will deliver two regionally focused and hands-on science activities to nearly 2,000 8th graders during the school year.

Our first visit with students focuses on energy throughout a Chihuahuan desert food web. Students will explore the transfers and transformations of energy, beginning to recognize that energy is a concept that cuts across all areas of science.

With the native kangaroo rat as the centerpiece, students will track how energy moves and morphs from the sun to a rattlesnake, and everywhere in between. Using wind-up toys and rubber snakes, solar panels and laser thermometers, bean bags and sound meters, we know students will have a great time while they learn all about energy in the desert!

Asombro’s second visit to 8th grade classrooms focuses on water in New Mexico: how much we have, how much we use, and how we can conserve it. With predictions of increasing population and less predictable precipitation in New Mexico, the need to save water is pressing.

To learn about three alternative water conservation methods, students will use watering cans and model houses to explore rooftop rainwater harvesting. They will roll marbles down a marble run to demonstrate how greywater recycling works and mold kinetic sand to investigate how shaping the land can help conserve water for local use.

There are myriad ways to conserve water! Students will leave this lesson empowered and equipped with knowledge to make a difference in how water is used in their home and community.

Asombro is excited to continue to build our relationship with Las Cruces Public Schools’ administration, teachers and students.

Education Programs

Thanks to your support, Asombro staff provided 616 hours of science for 11,931 students so far in 2016!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-22 Jul</td>
<td>J Paul Taylor Academy</td>
<td>Climate Hub agriculture unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 Aug</td>
<td>University Hills</td>
<td>arthropod identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-Aug</td>
<td>White Sands School</td>
<td>open house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-Aug</td>
<td>Project Main Street</td>
<td>Sort Like a Scientist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Aug</td>
<td>Butterfly Flutterby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 Aug</td>
<td>Mayfield HS</td>
<td>Climate Hub agriculture unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Aug</td>
<td>Sierra MS</td>
<td>vegetation measurements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Aug</td>
<td>J Paul Taylor Academy</td>
<td>Desert Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>Sierra MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30 Aug</td>
<td>J Paul Taylor Academy</td>
<td>Desert Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Aug</td>
<td>Sierra MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Sep</td>
<td>Sierra MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Sep</td>
<td>Sierra MS</td>
<td>field trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Sep</td>
<td>Zia MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9 Sep</td>
<td>Picacho MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-Sep</td>
<td>Zia MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>Camino Real MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Sep</td>
<td>J Paul Taylor Academy</td>
<td>I’m a Scientist, Too</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-20 Sep</td>
<td>Lynn MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>LC Catholic</td>
<td>I’m a Scientist, Too</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>LCPS Teacher Workshop</td>
<td>Desert Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>LCPS Teacher Workshop</td>
<td>Glimpse of the Chihuahuan Desert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-Sep</td>
<td>LCPS Teacher Workshop</td>
<td>Climate Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Sep</td>
<td>Native Plant Society</td>
<td>of NM - plant hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Vista MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Camino Real MS</td>
<td>Data Jam #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Sep</td>
<td>Vista MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>LC Catholic</td>
<td>classification &amp; See It Little/Big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Sep</td>
<td>Sierra MS</td>
<td>Data Jam #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Sep</td>
<td>Camino Real MS</td>
<td>carbon cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Why Not Dash for Asombro?**

**Join Us for Our 4th Annual Desert Dash Trail Race Fundraiser**

Excitement is building for our 4th annual Desert Dash Trail Race fundraiser on Saturday, November 12!

Come out to enjoy a run or walk on the beautiful trails of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park! There’s a distance for almost everyone. What better way to show your support for the Asombro Institute? All race proceeds will be used for our education programs.

Participants receive a technical race shirt and post-race refreshments.

All children in the 1-mile race will receive a finisher’s medal.

**November 12, 2016**

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, and Children’s 1-mile

Registration and information: www.asombro.org/dash

---

**Luminarias**

**Friday, December 9**

5 - 7:30 PM
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
Free!

More than 300 luminarias will light up the paths, giving visitors a unique view of the desert. Stroll the paths, catch some Pokémon, sing carols by the fire ring, roast marshmallows, and enjoy hot cocoa and other refreshments. Unique gifts will be available for purchase - last minute shopping opportunity!

Yes, we did say catch some Pokémon. You read that correctly!

---

**THANK YOU!**

We are grateful to the generous donors in the third quarter of 2016.

**Asombro Booster Club (monthly donors)**
Stephanie & Brandon Bestelmeyer
Lisa Ehlers-McCuller & Brian McCuller
Gene & Maureen Gant
Carolyn Gressitt & John Freyermuth
Libby Grace
Stephanie Haan-Amato & Jeff Amato
Anna & John Kimits
Marcella Newman
Deb Peters
Norman Todd
Walt & Linda Whitford
Justin Van Zee

**Science Sponsors**
Anonymous (2)
Leoniee Beatty
Larry Brenner
Beverly Denney & Ron Tipton
Ed Frank
Gene & Maureen Gant
Aravamudan & Champa Gopalan
GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces
Leilani Horton
Bill & Diana Howard
Laura Hueneke & Stephen Warburton
Catherine Kemmer, MD
Lynn & George Mulholland
NM Children’s Foundation

**Bob Schooley**
Dia Taylor
Elaine Tilghma
Susan Vantress
Joy Van Zee
Michael Weiss

**Turquoise**
Paul Bussan
Donna Yargosz

**Peridot**
Clifford Pelton
VFW Post 6917

**Obsidian**
Anonymous
Atrium Physical Therapy, Inc
Margaret Berrier
Joel & Peg Brown

**Optimist Club of Las Cruces**
Alice & Gene Ward

**Jasper**
Emilia Linley
Don McKittrick

**Gypsum**
Anonymous
Clifford, Ross, Cooper, LLC
John Welch & Gayle Trantham

**Quartz**
David Anderson
Douglas Burke
Larry Ludwig
Dr. Robert Severance
Jay and Martha Sharp
Garage Sale To Benefit Asombro

Saturday October 29
7:30 - Noon
4000 Senna (Las Cruces, NM 88011)

Spend some time this Halloween weekend shopping for bargains while feeling great about contributing to Asombro’s science education programs for local children. The Asombro Board of Directors is hosting a garage sale, and 100% of the proceeds benefit the organization.

If you have some items to donate for the sale, please contact Board member Donna Yargosz (575-312-2145 or yargoszdonna@yahoo.com).

We hope to see you at the sale!