

Asombro Insights

Science education for eager minds

A Quarterly Newsletter

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The Wonders of Spring Weather in the Desert

We love spring at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park! Winter rains and daily temperatures determine which wildflowers will emerge from the soil seed bank. It is a wonderful surprise each year. We also love the first bright green leaves on the honey mesquite and the red blooms on the claret cup hedgehog cactus.

Spring also brings unpredictable weather, including winds and even some rain this year that made Asombro field trips challenging! Day-to-day unpredictability remains, but now visitors can find the current conditions at the Nature Park from the comfort of their own homes. The Doña Ana County Flood Commission installed a weather station in February, and the data can be accessed through the website weather.donaanacounty.org. Choose the "Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park" from the list of sites to see current and past information on temperature, barometric pressure, humidity, wind speed, and rain accumulation.

In addition to helping visitors get current information about weather conditions at the Nature Park, this weather station will also become a learning station on student field trips.

We encourage you to get out to the Nature Park this spring to experience the magic for yourself.

Nature Park Hours
 Tuesday - Sunday
 7 AM - 5 PM



Claret cup hedgehog cacti are well hidden in the desert until their gorgeous orange-red flowers bloom in the spring.



A weather station installed at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park provides data on current and historic weather conditions to the Doña Ana County Flood Commission and Nature Park visitors on weather.donaanacounty.org

Making Carbon Fun Teacher Workshop

Eleven teachers from Las Cruces and Truth or Consequences spent Saturday, April 9 with Asombro staff and Dr. Heather Throop from Arizona State University. They were part of Asombro's "Making Carbon Fun" teacher workshop. Teachers learned about Dr. Throop's research on decomposition and carbon cycling in drylands and participated in several classroom activities Asombro developed to mirror Dr. Throop's research.

"Entire day was awesome!! I got questions about the carbon cycle answered! Thanks to Heather for sharing her experiences / research with us!"

Teacher workshop participant



Tracie Mikesell (Mesa MS), Emilia Linley (Valley View Elem.), and Sylvia Fielder (J. Paul Taylor Academy) work together on a Decomposition Data Jam project.

"Excellent workshop! Everything from beginning to end. An actual field trip and discussion, questioning and hands-on activities. All very helpful."

Teacher workshop participant



Teachers enjoy talking about the desert carbon cycle at the Nature Park.

"You guys are a class act. I always learn something new to either do in my classroom or share with my students."

Teacher workshop participant

Education Programs

Thanks to your support, Asombro staff provided 258 hours of science for 5,047 students so far in 2016!

8-Jan	La Union Elem - field trip	10-Feb	Mesa MS - Data Jam	2-Mar	Sierra MS - Data Jam
12-Jan	Zia MS - Data Jam	10-Feb	E Picacho Elem - Desert Plants	3-Mar	Mesa MS - Data Jam
13-Jan	LC Catholic - Weather	10-Feb	LC Catholic - Desert Stories	3-Mar	LC Catholic - Desert Stories
13-Jan	LC Catholic - Soil Organic Matter	10-Feb	LC Catholic - Wildlife CSI	4-Mar	Camino Real MS - Wildlife CSI
13-Jan	Mayfield HS - Data Jam	11-Feb	Sunrise Lions Club - Asombro	4-Mar	LC Catholic - field trip
14-Jan	Mayfield HS - Data Jam	11-Feb	Sierra MS - Data Jam	5-Mar	Cub Scouts - Nature Hike
14-Jan	J Paul Taylor Acad. - Desert Plants	11-Feb	J Paul Taylor Academy - Weather	6-Mar	LC de Noche Lions Club - Asombro
14-Jan	LC Catholic - Soil Organic Matter	12-Feb	Sierra MS - field trip	7-Mar	J Paul Taylor Acad. - Animal Adaptations
14-Jan	Sierra MS - Data Jam	16-Feb	Vista MS - Greenhouse Effect	7-Mar	Sonoma Elem - Weather
15-Jan	Camino Real MS - science fair	16-Feb	Doña Ana Elem - Desert Stories	8-Mar	Sonoma Elem - Weather
15-Jan	White Sands MS - Wildlife CSI	17-Feb	Doña Ana Elem - Desert Stories	9-Mar	Sonoma Elem - field trip
19-Jan	Sierra MS - Wildlife CSI	17-Feb	Zia MS - Data Jam	10-Mar	Red Mountain MS - Data Jam
20-Jan	Sierra MS - Wildlife CSI	17-Feb	Valley View Elem - Biomes	10-Mar	J Paul Taylor Academy - Biomes
20-Jan	LC Catholic - Zoology ID	18-Feb	Doña Ana Elem - Desert Stories	11-Mar	Sonoma Elem - field trip
20-Jan	LC Catholic - Biodiversity	18-Feb	Picacho MS - Wildlife CSI	22-Mar	E Picacho Elem - Arthropod Identification
21-Jan	Vista MS - Data Jam	18-Feb	Red Mountain MS - Data Jam	22-Mar	University Hills - Food Web
21-Jan	Sierra MS - Wildlife CSI	19-Feb	Picacho MS - Wildlife CSI	23-Mar	Zia MS - Data Jam
21-Jan	Mayfield HS - Data Jam	19-Feb	Sierra MS - field trip	24-Mar	Monte Vista Elem - field trip
21-Jan	Mayfield HS - Wildlife CSI	22-Feb	Vista MS - Wildlife CSI	29-Mar	J Paul Taylor Academy - Desert Stories
22-Jan	Hillcrest MS - field trip	23-Feb	Vista MS - Wildlife CSI	29-Mar	E Picacho Elem - Arthropod Identification
23-Jan	STEM Day for Girls - Wildlife Biology	23-Feb	Picacho MS - Data Jam	30-Mar	Zia MS - Data Jam
25-Jan	Picacho MS - Data Jam	24-Feb	Aldo Leopold MS - field trip	30-Mar	LC Catholic - Solar System
27-Jan	Zia MS - Data Jam	24-Feb	LC Catholic - Earth Movers	30-Mar	LC Catholic - Plant Life Cycle
28-Jan	Riverside Elem - Earth Movers	24-Feb	LC Catholic - Rock Investigation	31-Mar	J Paul Taylor Academy - Desert Stories
2-Feb	Mesa MS - Wildlife CSI	24-Feb	LC Catholic - Biomes	31-Mar	Picacho MS - Data Jam
3-Feb	Mesa MS - Wildlife CSI	24-Feb	LC Catholic - Biomes	31-Mar	University Hills - Science Night
4-Feb	Vista MS - Data Jam	25-Feb	Camino Real MS - Wildlife CSI		
4-Feb	E Picacho Elem - field trip	25-Feb	Doña Ana Elem - field trip		
8-Feb	Lynn MS - Wildlife CSI	29-Feb	Zia MS - Wildlife CSI		
9-Feb	LC Kiwanis - Asombro	1-Mar	Zia MS - Wildlife CSI		
9-Feb	Lynn MS - Wildlife CSI	1-Mar	LC Catholic - Desert Stories		
		2-Mar	LC Catholic - Desert Stories		
		2-Mar	Las Montañas HS - Data Jam		



The Taking Flight Series

Saturday May 7 7 - 9 AM Birds

Saturday May 21 9 - 11 AM Pollinators and Plants

Join Asombro educators for two more new events at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Events feature an introduction on flight, a walk with expert scientists, and a hands-on activity related to the day's theme.

Join us for learning, fun, and free raffles. Come fly with us!

For more information: 575-524-3334 or www.asombro.org

Save the Dates!

Aug. 20 - Butterfly Flutterby



Nov. 12 - Desert Dash Trail Race



Dec. 9 - Luminarias Light up the Desert

Thinking about Going Solar?

If you want to learn more about solar panel installation, this is a great time! Asombro supporter Positive Energy Solar will donate to Asombro (\$100 for a site visit and \$400 for a solar installation) for customers who mention the Asombro Institute for Science Education.

Do something good for the Earth, your pocketbook, and Asombro all at the same time!

Call Positive Energy Solar for more information: 575-524-2030.

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

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Out of the mouths of our students...



"I couldn't stop talking about what you taught me. I taught my family how Earthquakes happen and how volcanos erupt, (sic) my family was amazed."

4th grade student, Anthony, NM

"Before Data Jam, I never really thought about data. Now I know how hard it is to understand... My Data Jam project's going to help people get the point."

8th grade student, Deming, NM

"Every time you come, I learn something new. I can not wait intell (sic) next time. Thank you again."

3rd grade student, Las Cruces, NM

YES! I want to support the
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