

Asombro Insights

Science education for eager minds

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 3 (July - September 2016)

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Summer Camps Explore Science

We have been asked "What do you do during the summer when school is out?" While we have never taken the summer off, the summer of 2016 is turning out to be particularly busy.

Asombro was asked to participate and deliver hands-on science programs as part of the Las Cruces Public School District's Challenger Learning Center Summer Camps. Using STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), campers solve real-world problems as they investigate the planet Mars.

The morning started with campers testing and comparing New Mexico soil and simulated Mars soil as well as climate at both locations. They learned about nutrition and the caloric energy needed by humans for daily activity. Students learned about photosynthesis by making glucose molecules out of mini-marshmallows. Yummy!

After lunch, Asombro had three teams, each with their own engineering challenge. *Team Get It There* leaned about flight, payload balance,

food nutrition, and logistics.

Team Grow It There investigated growing food on Mars by designing greenhouses to include irrigation, light, crops, and soil quality. *Team Take Over the Planet* planned to terraform Mars to make it inhabitable by creating models representing the planet 100 - 1000 years into the future.

Now that we have seen what these kids can do, we are convinced that these bright minds will get us to Mars one day!



Team Grow it There starts building their greenhouse model.

Other summer camps to which Asombro brought science:

- ❖ Play It Safe at White Sands - New Mexico State University Alamogordo
- ❖ Discovery Camp - La Semilla Food Center
- ❖ The Code to Survival - STEM Outreach Center, New Mexico State University

Volunteer Corner

Our volunteers are the heart of Asombro, and we certainly could not do what we do without them!

We have a variety of opportunities for people to volunteer and help Asombro.:

- Monthly Volunteer Gatherings - usually the second Wednesday of the month. We work on a wide variety of tasks from folding newsletters to preparing for events and education programs.
- Butterfly Futterby (August 20) - This premier event in August depends on volunteers to run the activity booths.
- Classroom programs & Field trips - It is wonderful to have that second set of hands to help the staff.
- Desert Dash Trail Race (November 12) - Water stations, finish line, trail monitoring, and cheering on the runners all are vital to this fundraiser.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please contact us at 575-524-3334 or email rink@asombro.org.

Education Programs

Thanks to your support, Asombro staff provided 488 hours of science for 9,061 students so far in 2016!

1-Apr Vista MS - heath fair	26-Apr Riverside Elem - matter	16-May Sunrise Elem GISD - habitat stats
1-Apr J Paul Taylor Acad. - field trip	26-Apr Desert Spgs Christian Acad. - animal adaptations	16-May White Sands National Monument - animal adaptations
4-Apr J Paul Taylor Acad. - desert stories	27-Apr LC Catholic - penny flip	18-May Fairacres - field trip
4-Apr Mesa MS - data jam	27-Apr LC Catholic - arthropods	19-May Mesilla Park Elem - desert animals
5-Apr Vista MS - data jam	29-Apr Mesquite Elem - field trip	21-May Taking Flight - bugs
5-Apr Monte Vista Elem - field trip	2-May Mesilla Elem - Earth	27-May Bataan Elem (Deming) - field trip
6-Apr Sierra MS - data jam	3-May University Hills - field trip	31-May SC2 - Climate Hub/Water
7-Apr J Paul Taylor Acad. - penny flip	4-May Sunrise Elem GISD - career day	2-Jun NMSU-A - desert safety
8-Apr Sierra MS - field trip	4-May Mesilla Elem - Earth	3-Jun Tularosa Lib - animal adaptations
9-Apr Making Carbon Fun Teacher Workshop	6-May GUTS - field trip	3-Jun NM PED - symposium
12-Apr E Picacho Elem - field trip	7-May Taking Flight - birds	6-Jun La Semilla - soil
14-Apr Water Festival - animal adaptations	9-May Mesilla Elem - Earth	8-Jun La Semilla - desert plants
15-Apr Jornada Elem - arthropods	9-May Monte Vista Elem - Earth	13-Jun Capitan Lib - predator/prey
18-Apr Riverside Elem - matter	9-May J Paul Taylor Acad. - climate change & agriculture	29-Jun Rockhound State Park - predators
19-Apr Riverside Elem - matter	10-May Monte Vista Elem - Earth	30-Jun Doris VanDoren Lib - animal adaptations
19-Apr Lake Arthur SD - life science	10-May J Paul Taylor Acad. - climate change & agriculture	June 7, 14, 21, 28 - LCPS STEAM camp
20-Apr Holloman Elem - desert plants	10-May Desert Hills Elem - field trip	June 20, 21, 23, 24 - NMSU STEM - day camp
20-Apr Branigan Library - Chihuahuan Desert	11-May Desert Hills Elem - field trip	
21-Apr Vista MS - stratigraphy	11-May Monte Vista Elem - Earth	
22-Apr Monte Vista Elem - field trip	12-May Mesilla Elem - Earth	
23-Apr Taking Flight - bats	12-May Monte Vista Elem - Earth	
25-Apr Riverside Elem - matter	13-May Deming HS - science expo	
	13-May Garfield Elem - career day	

Butterfly Flutterby

at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

Saturday, August 20

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$3 per person

Rain or Shine

New stations this year include:
Life Cycle maze, Build a Butterfly game,
Butterfly Identification Relay, and
making a butterfly necklace.

Family favorites return:
face painting, butterfly experts,
butterfly gardening with
Doña Ana County Master Gardeners,
and bucket auction.



Never Too Old to Be the Student

Congratulations to our Program Coordinator, Rink Somerday, for being awarded the Teacher Scholarship to the Family Nature Summit at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. Family Nature Summits offer participants the opportunity to enjoy and learn about nature and the environment and help attendees be good stewards of the Earth.

Rink attended classes about geology, Earth's magnetic field, bird banding, ancient stone calendars of the southwest, flintknapping, Plein Air painting, and took a field trip to the Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project.



Rink learned that she can be a scientist and an artist during the Family Nature Summit at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM.

THANK YOU!

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

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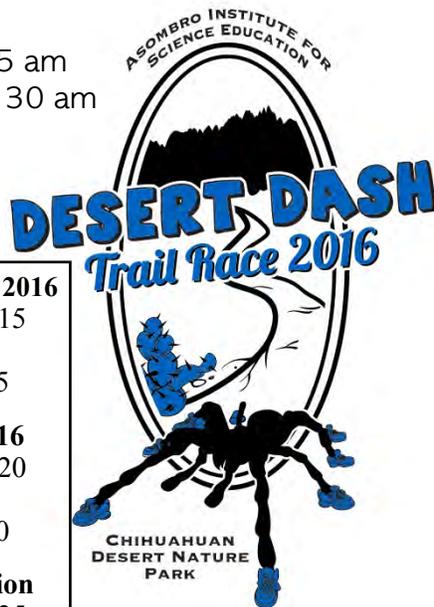
Las Cruces, NM

Permit No. 2014



4th Annual Desert Dash Trail Race
Saturday, November 20, 2016

Half Marathon: 8:15 am
Children's 1-Mile: 8:30 am
10K: 9:00 am
5K: 9:15 am



Through November 4, 2016
Children's 1-Mile: \$15
5K and 10K: \$25
Half Marathon: \$35

November 5-10, 2016
Children's 1-Mile: \$20
5K and 10K: \$30
Half Marathon: \$40

Race Day Registration
Children's 1-Mile: \$25
5K and 10K: \$35
Half Marathon: \$45

YES! I want to support the
Asombro Institute for Science Education!

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