

Asombro Insights

Science education for eager minds

A Quarterly Newsletter

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Summer of Science at Asombro

While students are on summer break from school, Asombro staff continues to promote quality science education through a different set of programs, primarily summer camps and programs at public libraries.

Throughout June, Asombro staff worked with the amazing team of educators at the Challenger Learning Center of Las Cruces. Together, we hosted Summer Space Camps for more than 120 students. Camps focused on the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and NASA's Moon to Mars campaign.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade campers participated in a variety of activities focused on figuring out how to grow crops on the moon. The 3rd - 5th grade campers were challenged with growing food on Mars. They did soil nutrient testing, hand-textured soil, and designed a hydroponics system. Our favorite part of camp was helping students create marketing videos to "sell" their hydroponics system. Their creativity and pride in their projects was inspiring! Sixth through 8th grade campers participated in a "Moon Data Jam," the first time we've applied our popular Data Jam model to data from beyond planet Earth.

While we weren't "camping," Asombro took our science education show on the road, taking part in summer reading programs at seven public libraries throughout New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. The library programs are a great way to bring hands-on science to preschoolers through adults in parts of the state that we don't often go, such as Los Lunas and Capitan.

We were also privileged to take part in the State 4-H Conference in July. Hundreds of 13-18 year olds participated in this event on the NMSU campus. Asombro staff provided a workshop on the use of radio-telemetry. Students had a great time getting outside to track collared brush mice (actually, they were stuffed animals!) and learn how NMSU biologist Karen Mabry uses radio-telemetry to learn more about this species.



Summer camp participants show off the beginning of their Moon Data Jam creative project. They used real data about moons to create models and videos to teach others. Photo by Dakota Domínguez.



Participants in Asombro's program at the Los Lunas Public Library got hands-on experiences with desert animal skins and skulls. Photo by Ryan Pemberton.

Teachers From Throughout New Mexico Learn How Their Students Can Become “Climate Champions”



On July 22 and 23, the Asombro office was full of laughter and learning as teachers from seven counties in New Mexico participated in Asombro’s New Mexico Climate Champions workshop.

New Mexico Climate Champions began in 2017 thanks to a grant from EPA’s Environmental Education Grant Program. We developed two, 10-hour education and action modules focused on water and energy issues in New Mexico related to climate change. Students participate in five hands-on activities to learn more about the topic. Then they put this knowledge into practice, designing and implementing projects aimed to help solve problems.

A generous grant from Dr. Lynn and Carolyn Melton allowed us to continue this successful project this year. During the workshop, teachers learned from climate experts and participated in all of the project activities, preparing them to teach the activities to their own students in the fall.

Each teacher left the workshop with a kit of materials to implement the activities and new friends and fellow teachers from around the state. Asombro staff left with excitement about what students will create as they work toward becoming the newest New Mexico climate champions, equipped with the knowledge to make a real difference in the future of our state.



New Mexico Climate Champions teachers, Dr. Lynn Melton (back center), Stephanie Bestelmeyer (front left), and Ryan Pemberton (front right). Photo by Stephanie Haan-Amato.

Education Programs

Thanks to your support, Asombro staff provided 707 hours of science for 14,814 students so far in 2019.

Here are the programs in April, May, and June 2019.

1-Apr	Memorial Elem. - Properties of Matter	16-Apr	Columbus Elem. - Life Cycles	7-May	J Paul Taylor Acad. - Criollo
1-Apr	Tombaugh Elem. - field trip	16-Apr	J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS	7-May	Highland Elem. - Desert Stories
1-Apr	Zia MS - Human Impacts	16-Apr	Columbia Elem. - field trip	7-May	Sunrise Elem. - Science Interns
1-Apr	Mesa MS - Human Impacts	17-Apr	Riverside Elem. - Insulating You	8-May	North Valley Elem. - field trip
2-Apr	Memorial - Sun & Shade		Insulating Earth	9-10 May	Sunrise Elem. - Science Interns
2-Apr	Picacho MS - Data Jam #4	18-Apr	Columbia Elem. - Vibrations & Sounds	9-May	Las Montañas - Warming Up to Data
2-Apr	Mesa MS - Human Impacts	18-Apr	J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS	9-10 May	Zia MS - Human Impacts
2-Apr	Mesilla Valley Lead. Acad. - WS Lizard	18-Apr	Mesilla Elem. - Schoolyard Diversity	13-May	Sunrise Elem. - Science Interns
3-Apr	LC Catholic - Desert Stories	18-Apr	Lynn MS - Human Impacts	13-May	Fairacres Elem - field trip
3-Apr	Picacho MS - Human Impacts	20-Apr	SNM Earth Day Festival	13-14 May	Mesilla Valley Leadership Acad. - Human Impacts
3-Apr	NMSU Science Methods Class	23-Apr	J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS	14-15 May	Sunrise Elem. - Science Interns
3-4 Apr	Las Cruces HS - Cycling of Matter	23-25 Apr	LC Catholic - Science Interns	14-May	Sierra MS - Human Impacts
4-Apr	Sierra MS - Data Jam #4	25-Apr	Breakfast Optimist Club	15-16 May	Sierra MS - Human Impacts
4-Apr	Picacho MS - Human Impacts	26-Apr	Highland Elem. - Desert Stories	16-May	Las Montañas - Up in the Air
5-Apr	Sierra MS - field trip	26-Apr	Columbus - Structure & Function of Plants	16-17 May	Camino Real MS - Human Impacts
5-Apr	Mesa MS - Data Jam #4	29-Apr	LC Catholic - Science Interns	20-May	Ruben S Torres - Cons. of Matter
5-Apr	Vista MS - Data Jam #4	29-Apr	Mesilla - field trip	20-21 May	Deming Int. - Energy Transfers
6-Apr	LC Volunteer Fair	29-30 Apr	Vista MS - Human Impacts	21-22 May	Highland Elem. - Life Cycles
6-Apr	Scientist Saturday	30-Apr	Highland Elem. - Desert Stories	29-30 May	LCPS Challenger Camp
8-Apr	Memorial - Young Arthropod ID	30-Apr	Columbus (Deming) - Seed Dispersal	1-Jun	Scientist Saturday
9-Apr	Red Mountain MS- Energy Transfers	1-May	Columbus Elem.- Sun & Shade	4-Jun	Inst. Tribal Enviro. Professionals
9-Apr	Las Cruces Tour of Gardens	1-May	Highland Elem. - Desert Stories	5-Jun	LCPS Challenger Camp
9-Apr	White Sands MS - Human Impacts	3-May	Highland Elem.- Desert Stories	11-Jun	LCPS Challenger Camp
10-Apr	LC Catholic - Classification	3-May	Red Mountain MS - WS Lizards	17-Jun	Capitan Library - Rock it
10-Apr	Las Cruces HS - Cycling of Matter	3-May	Sunrise Elem. - Science Interns	19-Jun	LCPS Challenger Camp
11-Apr	Mesilla - Life Cycles	3-May	Fairacres Elem. - Ag Day	20-Jun	El Paso Library - Animal Adaptations
11-Apr	Memorial - Schoolyard Diversity	4-May	Scientist Saturday	25-Jun	La Semilla - LandPKS
11-Apr	Memorial - Young Arthropod ID	4-May	Dripping Springs Bio Blitz	26-Jun	LCPS Challenger Camp
11-Apr	J Paul Taylor Acad. - Desert Stories	6-May	Red Mountain MS - Human Impacts	26-Jun	Rockhound State Park
12-Apr	J Paul Taylor Acad. - field trip	6-May	Sunrise Elem. - Science Interns	27-Jun	Sunrise Lions Club
13-Apr	Las Cruces Space Festival	6-May	Highland Elem. - Desert Stories	27-Jun	LCPS Challenger Camp
15-Apr	Berino Elem - field trip				

Adopt a Cactus to Share the Wonder of Science

More than any other group of plants, cacti symbolize the rugged beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert. That's why we chose to celebrate cacti in our newest fundraising campaign, Adopt a Cactus. We are asking for donations at four levels, each named for a fascinating cactus species. As a token of our appreciation, donors will receive an adoption certificate and a beautiful framed 4" x 6" photo of their cactus species taken by talented Las Cruces photographer and naturalist, Lisa Mandelkern. Cactus adoptions can also be given as a gift.

Can you help share the wonder of science by adopting a cactus? Your donation will help Asombro provide exciting, hands-on science programs to K-12 students in New Mexico and West Texas.

Adopt a cactus today via our website:

www.asombro.org/cactus



Corncob Cactus
\$60



Claret Cup Cactus
\$100



Fendler's Hedgehog Cactus
\$250



Turk's Head Cactus
\$500

Wonder Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service: Thomas Bestelmeyer

Volunteering at Asombro isn't limited by age. Incoming Las Cruces High School freshman, **Thomas Bestelmeyer**, is living proof, and we are excited to name him Wonder Award recipient of the third quarter! Thomas has been volunteering for Asombro since a very early age: running stations at events, testing out new ideas for science activities, and doing behind-the-scenes preparation work. Most recently, he has felt like a bonus staff person this summer, teaching Asombro activities at the Summer Space Camps at the Challenger Learning Center of Las Cruces.

When talking to Thomas, it is abundantly clear that he is self motivated to be a helpful citizen and all-around good person. He volunteers at Asombro not because his mom is the Executive Director, but because he sees the importance of the mission and wants to contribute. He excels not only in science, but in mathematics, and he would like to pursue a career in mathematics, possibly related to space exploration. No doubt that he will accomplish whatever he sets his mind to! We think he and his goals are WONDER-FUL!



Thomas Bestelmeyer, 2019 Third Quarter Wonder Award Recipient

We Need YOU: Volunteer to Make a Difference

Asombro is seeking volunteers for our classroom lessons, field trips, and public programs! There is no minimum time contribution. Help when you can. Please call 575-524-3334 or email information@asombro.org for more information.

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to the generous donors in the second quarter of 2019.



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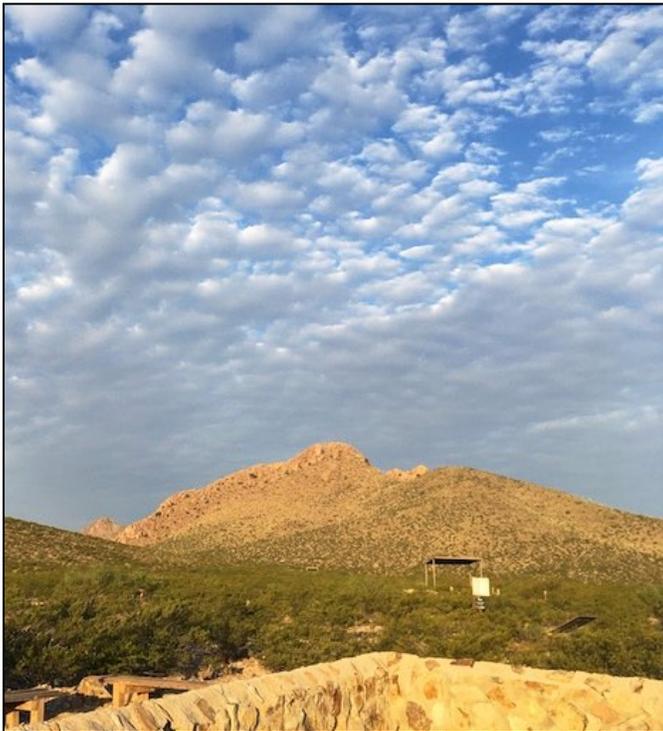


Asombro Institute

FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

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Early mornings are a great time to visit the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park in the summer. Gates open at 7AM from Tuesday through Sunday. The early bird gets the worm...and the serenity and beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert!

YES! I want to support the
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- Quartz (\$15 +)
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- Obsidian (\$250 +)
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