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Tumbleweeds

MARCH 2023 | FREE

MAGAZINE

**Hands-on
*Gardening***

MAKE A
*Spring
Splash*

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
& Child Care

Perfect
CAMPING
SPOTS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Tumbleweeds is becoming a bi-monthly magazine starting May 1st.

GUIDE TO ACTIVITIES,
CAMPS, AND PROGRAMS

PG. 15

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PG. 26

PATIENT EDUCATION

VOLUME 1: X-RAYS

Dentistry for Kids has a goal this year of educating our patient families. Lots of parents and caregivers want to know: "What's the deal with X-rays?" There's a lot to learn about X-rays so let's dive in.

At your child's check-up we often request X-rays as a part of their visit. X-rays are pictures that show us exactly what your child's teeth and bone look like. They play an important role in the understanding and maintaining of your child's oral health and assist the doctor in better treating your child.

We primarily use two different types of X-rays in our office: bite-wings and panoramic X-rays. We use both to get an overall view of the child's dental health. Bite-wings are used more often and utilize a sensor inside the mouth to get an accurate picture of the teeth to better monitor decay and detect cavities. Usually we can use our naked eye to view the health of the "brushing surfaces" but the X-rays show us the health of the "flossing surfaces". Panoramic X-rays are taken outside of the mouth to assess both jaw and dental growth/development. These are usually taken every five years but more often when you are an orthodontic patient.

X-rays may seem like they are optional, but they are truly necessary. If a child's back teeth have no space in between them, there is no way for the

dentist to see if a cavity is forming without an X-ray. Unlike adult teeth, baby teeth don't feel pain until the decay is close to the nerve. A small cavity can be repaired with a small filling if it is caught before the child starts feeling discomfort. We would much prefer to treat a cavity before it becomes painful to a child.

You might be concerned about radiation exposure with X-rays, but current technology allows us to take more accurate X-rays without nearly as much radiation (especially when compared to machines and protocols from 30 years ago). Currently studies are determining whether aprons are even necessary with how little radiation is

If you have any questions about X-rays, don't hesitate to ask your dentist or staff member. We are strong proponents of X-rays and believe that in the long run they will improve your health and well-being.

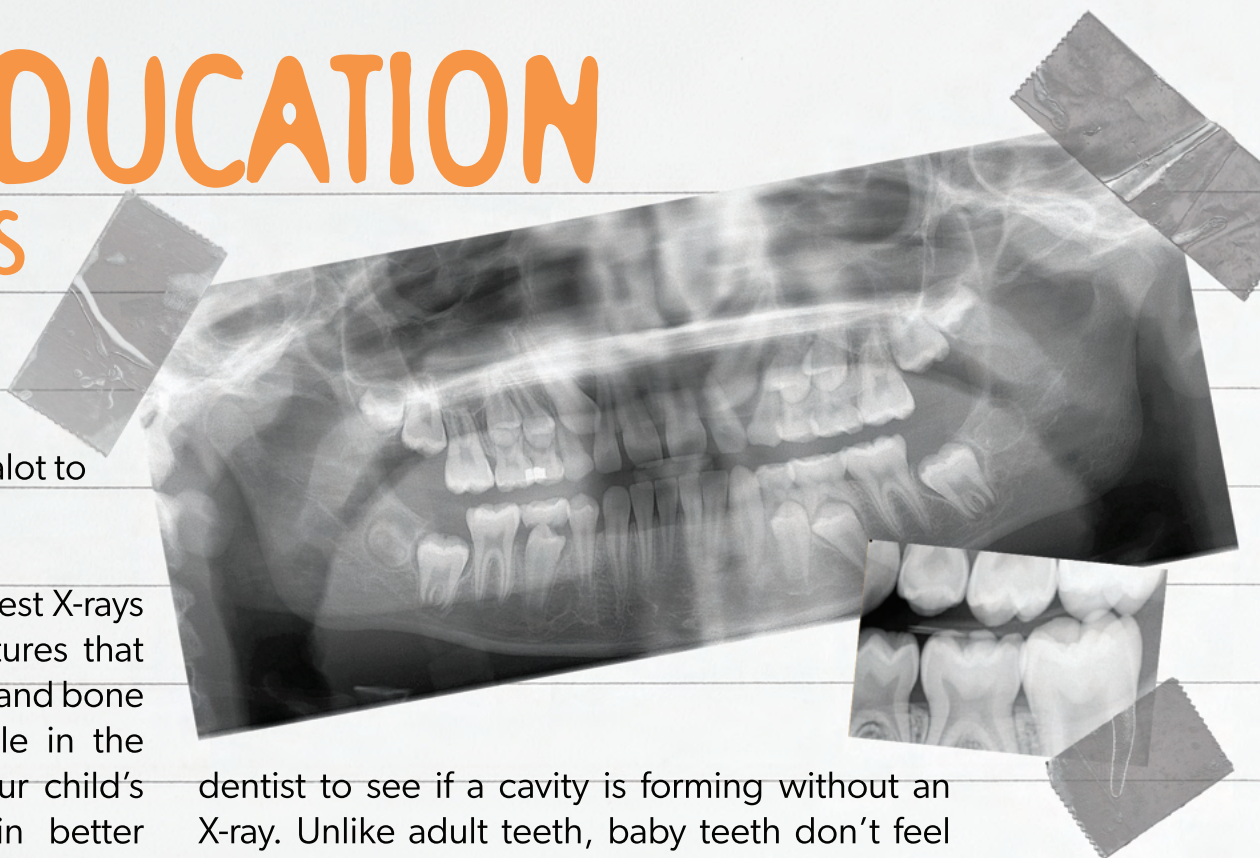
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Tumbleweeds

VOLUME 29 | NUMBER 4

MAGAZINE

Cover Kid Q&A

ON THE COVER:

FRANKIE AGE 8,
MARTIN AGE 6,
PENELOPE AGE 4,
& STEVIE 4 MONTHS

What do you like most about yourself right now?

Frankie: I like that I am smart.

Martin: I'm good at science.

Penelope: That I can draw and I'm a beautiful girl.

What do you think your future job will be?

Frankie: A third grade teacher.

Martin: Chemist.

Penelope: A princess.

Who are your best friends and why do you like each other?

Frankie: Alivia - we like each other because we've known each other our whole lives.

Martin: Jonathan and Andrew - we are all silly.

Penelope: A princess.

What do you think your parents do at work all day?

Frankie: Mom listens to committees and my dad suspends kids.

Martin: They do lots of meetings.

Penelope: Dad does rock and roll and mom rides the bike.



The entire Chavez family ready for Spring time.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Connect with us on social media or write to us at HELLO@TUMBLEWEEDSMAG.COM. Letters, artwork, and articles from our readers on personal and professional experiences with children are welcome. Tumbleweeds Magazine strives to connect families to resources and to each other.

CONNECT WITH US



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DISTRIBUTION
Tumbleweeds Magazine is bi-monthly print and online publication. It is Northern New Mexico families' best resource. Thanks to our advertisers and community partners, seasonal issues are distributed FREE throughout Santa Fe, Española and Los Alamos.

DISCOUNT BULK ORDERS
If you or your organization would like to purchase copies of Tumbleweeds Magazine, bulk orders of 10 copies or more may be requested via email at: Hello@TumbleweedsMag.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Tumbleweeds Magazine offers event organizers FREE online event listings and

promotion. Submit your event online at: TumbleweedsMag.com/things-to-do

FAMILY DIRECTORY
As the #1 resource for Northern New Mexico families, you may include your business in Tumbleweeds Magazine's online Family Directory for FREE. Submit your business information at: FamilyDirectory@TumbleweedsMag.com

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**March & April
2024 Calendar**

Be a Part of Tumbleweeds Magazine!

May 2024 Issue Deadlines

Tumbleweeds continues to seek new local voices to include in the magazine. Check out how you can get involved.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING AN ARTICLE? OR DO YOU HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Jen@TumbleweedsMag.com
Article Submissions Deadline: **March 25, 2024**

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Online Ad Reservations & Copy Deadline: **March 29, 2024**

The Tumbleweeds Magazine May issue will be published May 1, 2024.

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ON THE COVER:

The Chavez children are coyotes, campers, and cute! Frankie age 8, Martin age 6, Penelope age 4 and Stevie 4 months old. Photo by Jane Phillips.
Photo by Jane Phillips.

ARTWORK IN THIS ISSUE:

Tumbleweeds Magazine partnered with Art School Santa Fe, Dragonfly Art Studio and JF Mazur Studio to share children and teen artwork. Art School Santa Fe offers courses in numerous genres including illustration, creature design, fantasy art, comic book drawing, animals, landscapes and cartooning. Dragonfly Art Studio is a place where kids and adults develop their creative talent in a fun and stimulating environment. JF Mazur Studio offers children's art workshops and private painting classes. See more artwork on our website, TumbleweedsMag.com.

POSTED

Tumbleweeds asked its social media followers for ideas on how Northern New Mexico communities can become more family-friendly, and there were some great ideas!



KATRINA G.

"I would love a public splash pad to take the kids this summer. I think it would be such an amazing fun safe activity for the kids."



KYMBERLY M.

"I'd love to be able to take my kids swimming in the summer. The slots fill so quickly. We didn't get a slot the entire summer last year. We only got to go when I paid for lessons (which were insanely expensive). Affordable housing. My children are 5th generation New Mexicans and I was born and raised in Santa Fe. We shouldn't have to struggle so much to make ends meet. I'd love to see more inclusive activities who strive to accommodate the participation of children who aren't typically developing. My kids would love to see a trampoline park or Ninja gym. I'd love a community center that is free to locals and open for school closures/breaks."



HOLITOMOLI HOLISTIC ARTS ACADEMY

"Trampoline park! They are expensive to create and the logistics are a huge undertaking. Despite these facts, it would be so worth it. I've been dreaming of creating this for years."





Notes
from *Jen*

We All Have *Emotions to* *Manage*

JEN SCHROER

Time flies. In 2019, we moved back to New Mexico with a 9-month-old, and this Spring, Ryker will turn 6 years old. Both of our kids are out of diapers. Both kids attend school. We celebrated the removal of the child-proofing gadgets from the kitchen cabinets and light sockets. The last of the baby-toddler equipment has been donated or passed on to friends embarking on growing their own family, and we are now signing our kids up for after-school activities. Justin and I are striding into the next chapter.

As an adult, I find transitioning between and reflecting on life seasons sparks a spectrum of emotions. I look back at my babies' photos wistfully and long to breathe in that sweet baby smell again. I bubble up with frustration when I see adorable crayon drawings on the playroom wall. I hang my kids' artwork on the refrigerator with pride. I worry about the quality of their education. I am conflicted about continuing with an au pair and working full time in a demanding job. I grieve that my parents may not see my children get married. I smile with amusement when my daughter skips out to our living room in her dress-up clothes and admires her reflection in the sliding glass door as she dances each evening. I feel blessed, but fear I am not doing enough as their mom.

Managing the swirl of daily emotions is a lot—especially with kids on top of working a taxing job, owning small businesses, and helping care for my aging parents. To manage my thrilling but demanding life, I have found that I must manage my emotions or I will be managed by them. I am intentional about improving my emotional intelligence to help minimize getting swallowed up in the chaos of parenting and just day-to-day adulting. There is much we do not have control over but we do have control of how we respond to others and situations.

Over the years, I've learned some tips that I have found helpful, like naming my emotions timely and understanding what triggered them. Recognizing how being tired, hungry or stressed amplifies my emotions. Slow deep breathing during difficult situations keeps me thinking logically and helps me redirect the flow of my emotions. Pausing in the moment and reflecting on the situation including taking time to pray, meditate, sleep, eat, take a nature walk, or write before responding to a situation. To fully process my emotions, I am blessed with a handful of friends that I trust deeply and ask them to speak into my life during the most difficult of times. Whether with friends, family or colleagues, I am also intentional about identifying the emotions of others as we move forward together in conversation and collaboration. My ability to

empathize with others helps me foster a stronger understanding, which then helps me navigate the situation.

As my children grow, they too are learning how to identify their emotions and as a parent, I get to help them process them, which has led to me to understanding my children in a more meaningful way. My daughter earned a time out one Saturday afternoon after she spit in her brother's face. As I sat her down on her bed for the five-minute time out, she snarled, "I'm angry." I asked her what made her angry, to which she explained that a boy at school spit at her and after telling her teacher, he did not get a time out. She was angry that she was being punished when he was not, even though they committed the same naughty act. And just like that, at such a young age, she learned that life is not fair.

We talked through the boy situation at school. I validated her feelings about this time out inequity, and I coached her how to handle the situation if it happened again. Explaining to a 4-year-old the difference between right and wrong, how our actions hurt others, and why we should choose to do the right thing even when others do not and go unpunished was hard to break down into words she understood, but she wanted to understand, desperately. As I sat on her bed staring into her glassy hazel eyes, my heart swelled with love as I imagined the

many more talks like this I'd have with my children in the years to come.

We are human, not robots. We have bad days, weeks, and sometimes years. And how we decide to deal with the bad times and difficult situations is what builds our emotional stamina. It's the commitment to practicing coping mechanisms. It's the strength of those you choose to be your people, speaking wisdom and perspective into your life. When our emotions swirl and rage, learning to stay calm and manage your feelings is a skill. Taking the time to process the situation to respond most productively can be really hard but incredibly healthy for your soul and for others.

I sobbed the other day. I had personal stuff going on, work highs and lows, family concerns; the world just kept on giving me one challenge after another within a 48-hour period which just compounded because I didn't pause; I didn't process. I didn't practice selfcare. I was tired, stressed, hungry, and did I say tired? I surrendered to my inability to manage it all on my own. I called my dear friend, and she found me in minutes. She arrived with a tissue box, a warm hug, and discernment. Her perspective of the situation justified my feelings. Her calming effect allowed me to hear her logic. I could feel my body relax and my heart beat slow down. I started to think more logically. As she



Ryker and Aviva celebrating St. Valentine's Day.

passed me off to two other dear friends who took me to dinner and then home to get some much needed sleep, she said, "We got you!"

I woke up the next morning still worn down but rested. I felt a little ashamed because I don't break down like that often. What in the world happened? I allowed frustration and disappointment to consume me. I didn't take the needed time to process my emotions and the various situations over the past 48 hours. I didn't do self care. And to top it off, I allowed myself to become tired, stressed and hungry which amplified my emotions. Motivated to control what I could, I got out of bed and immediately put some protein bars in my purse. Justin gave me a long hug and handed me a cup of strong, steaming coffee with a touch of milk. I looked at my phone, and there were several heartfelt, encouraging text messages from dear friends who knew I was struggling. I prayed, thanked my friends, and took a chilly walk around the neighborhood with my dog. Thanks to my husband, friends, and grit, I snapped out of it, and it was time to move on.

As the seasons change and we move on to spring, this issue of *Tumbleweeds* includes articles that share ideas to promote health and wellbeing like camping, therapeutic equestrian riding, and nature exploration. There are also articles about difficult parenting

experiences and their personal power which was shaped through their journey. As is tradition, this issue includes the Guide to Summer Activities, Camps, and Programs to help families plan their kids summer care. Like my friend said, "We got you!"

Justin and I are enthusiastic that this issue is the last of volume 29, meaning that *Tumbleweeds* will be entering its 30th year. This is a huge milestone for a small family-business that was made possible by the founder, Claudette Sutton, the numerous contributors, editors, team members and advertisers over the decades, and the Schroer family's determination to bring the publication back to print after the pandemic. We are encouraged to continue modernizing the publication to meet the needs of the families in Northern New Mexico, which is why we are excited to announce that *Tumbleweeds* will transition from a quarterly publication to a bimonthly publication starting May 1.

And, yes, I have a lot of emotions about this new commitment, but am managing them just fine.

Cheers,

Jen



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rock climbing,
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swimming
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Bubble Cat by Mia - Art School Santa Fe courtesy photo.

Fostering: A Series of Bananas

The system,
the cycle, and the to dos

MOMMA KIKI

Foster Parent - noun

Individuals who provide a temporary home and care for children in the foster care system, often with the goal of reuniting the child with their biological family or facilitating adoption.

Case Plan - verb

A comprehensive document outlining the goals, tasks, and timelines for a child(ren)'s permanency and well-being while in foster care.

When you start off a family based article about children and parenting defining what a Case Plan is in relation to fostering, it makes the system, the process, the lifestyle seem and sound so rigid and impersonal. Unfortunately, a lot of the work behind the scenes of fostering is just that, impersonal required paperwork and checklists. There is a laundry list of to dos that foster parents and caseworkers have to complete on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. And although it is the least exciting and least personal part of this journey it is absolutely important that as a foster parent you make it a priority. This process could assist in the change of or direction of care for the child(ren). A Case Plan is created by the state agency that handles all foster children and their

placements. This directs a foster parent as to what is required and should be a priority for the child(ren) in your care. This is something that your caseworker will continuously review with foster parents, guardian ad litem (lawyer for the children), Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) worker, and any other involved parties on a monthly basis in a group meeting and then again with you and the child(ren) at your home visit. The following list are some of the priorities discussed in a case plan.

1. Health & Safety is at the top of the list of priorities. Have you taken your foster kids for their annual pediatric checkups, dental appointments, eye exams, are they seeing any type of therapist, do they need or are they taking any medication, have you had to take them to urgent care recently?
2. Education is another at the top of the list of priorities: is your foster child attending school, how are they doing academically, socially, and behaviorally in the classroom? Are there any issues or things that need to be addressed in relation to their education? Are they receiving any extra support at the school or tutoring outside the classroom?
3. Community Involvement is asked about but not truly defined as a

priority: Are the kids involved in any recreational activities such as sports, clubs, or anything else that might support their social interaction with others?

4. Family Unit and Household Environment: How are things at home? Are the kid(s) getting along with each other? How are they interacting with you as a parent? Is there any concerning behavior? Do the children have the proper clothing, school items, necessities? What else should we be aware of in regards to the child(ren)?
5. Foster Child Support: This is time in which your caseworker will spend with each of the children in your care individually in private. How are you doing? How is school going, are you getting good grades? Anything exciting happening outside of school, are you in sports or clubs? Are you getting along with your siblings? Are you getting along with your foster parents? Is there anything that you would like to share with me in private? Do you feel safe here? Do you have any questions about your case/situation?
6. Foster Parent Support is usually the last on the priority list but it's still on the list: How are you doing, how

are you feeling? Is there anything that concerns you in relation to the behaviors of the child(ren) towards you and your partner? Are you taking time for yourself or as a couple? Do you need Respite Care? Do you need anything or any other support from us?

7. Parental Visits: In most cases visits with the child(ren)'s biological parents are scheduled in an effort to reunify the family. This can be scheduled weekly, biweekly, monthly, etc. This can be where the bio-parent is allowed to have the child(ren) alone for a set period of time, this can be a scheduled visit with a certified case worker present. In any case this is a time for the child(ren) to bond and continue their relationship with their bio-parents. It is a hard balance as a foster parent to feel empathy towards the bio-parents and an understanding of the reunification process and put simply it is a leap of faith in the system in place.

On top of having two monthly meetings you will also have to visit on a quarterly basis in person with your child's guardian ad litem (children's lawyer) and their Court Appointed Special Advocate. Both of these parties are actively involved throughout the entirety



Watching a movie at sunset with Brother (Santa Fe Public Schools).

of the case. What they see and hear from both you as the foster parent and your foster kids, they advocate and speak on behalf of the children at court hearings. In all cases these two individuals are important and in support of the best interest of the child(ren). Throughout your case with your foster child(ren) there will be many court hearings in which you can attend and in a few instances will be asked to speak at. Here is a quick breakdown of potential court hearings that can occur during a foster care case.

1. Initial Hearing: First hearing after removal of child(ren) where biological parents are informed of the reasons for removal, legal rights, and next steps.
2. Adjudication: Fact-finding trial to determine evidence of a child being neglected or abused to determine jurisdiction.
3. Permanency Planning: Determine permanent plan for the child(ren) in relation to reunification, continued placement, and/or adoption.
4. Placement Review: Review the well-being of the child(ren) and appropriateness of the current placement in relation to their foster care setting.
5. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR): If efforts to reunify the family

are unsuccessful a determination to legally sever the bio-parent's rights is determined, making the child(ren) eligible for adoption.


6. Post-Termination Review: After Parental Rights are terminated a determination of the child(ren)'s permanent placement and well-being are assessed.
7. Adoption: Child(ren) are legally eligible for adoption and are placed with a potential adoptive parent(s). If the court sees fit and the foster parent(s) are willing they have the chance to adopt the child(ren) themselves if no other contested individual petitions.

Everything you just read and I am assuming probably for the first time, is a continuous cycle in the process that is foster care and it is something that no foster parent or foster child(ren) for that matter gets used to. You can prepare yourself and the family for your scheduled and required home visits with your caseworker, you can try and prepare for the first, the second or even the eighth court appearance but it never is the same as the one before. You can try to make an excel list of all the appointments you need to schedule, reminders for all the follow ups, and research of all the therapy or activities that might improve you or your child(ren)'s perspective in your situation, but the truth of the matter is that foster care is unpredictable, unusual, and simply put, hell'a' hard. But remember you are not alone in this journey and it is all worth it, as you are making a difference in the lives of the child(ren) you are caring for and they are making a difference in you.


Foster Momma Kiki grew up in a loving home right here in Northern New Mexico. A home that openly took in children and teens throughout her upbringing. She learned from her parents the selfless act of caring for others. She currently lives with her husband and their three children (17, 9, and 5 years of age) who they have recently adopted or are the legal guardians. You can connect with Momma Kiki at fostermommakiki@gmail.com.




Learning to bake as Brothers (Big Brothers Big Sisters).



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Special Needs

The New Mexico **Center for Therapeutic Riding** *is Moving*

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ASHLEY FISHER

NMCTR's new home.

Since 2010, The New Mexico Center for Therapeutic Riding (NMCTR) has provided Equine-Assisted Services to individuals with disabilities of all ages. NMCTR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH Intl). Starting as a little non-profit, NMCTR has grown over the years to now serve over 100 individuals with special needs each year with an increasing demand driving us to start a waiting list. We started with 2 horses and currently have 8 horses that are the heart of our organization. Why horses? Horses are amazing animals that have the intuition to read every emotion humans feel. They connect with a human in a way that no other animal can. Researchers from the HeartMath Institute have found scientific data showing that a human's heart rhythm can be lowered into an emotionally regulated state when around horses. If you are having a sad or angry day, they will carry those emotions for you and bring you joy as you cope, teaching you healthy ways to cope. If you are having a joyful day, they will celebrate with you, promoting confidence. Not only do they naturally connect with us, but they can also assist with physical impairments. When riding a horse, the movement of a horse walking will stimulate the muscular and nervous system. Your core will strengthen, your balance will improve, and you will become much more limber. As you can see, horses have the amazing ability to change lives. There are a lot of Equine-Assisted Services offered throughout the

country because it is recognized that the benefits are remarkable! But how is NMCTR different from other programs? We value our individualized services for every person that walks through our doors. We have our riders establish personalized emotional/social, physical, and cognitive goals. We want our riders to gain confidence from their accomplishments. We also have adaptive equipment such as a wheelchair ramp and lift, specialized saddles, different sensory equipment, schedule boards, number systems, etc. All our riding instructors are also PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors. Each instructor generates a weekly lesson plan. For example, let's say we have a rider with autism. We design successful lessons by making sure to understand their sensory, social, and communication needs. We may use a number picture board for riders that are non-verbal, may use sensory reins to make it easier for the rider to hold, or choose a horse that walks with a pep in his step versus a horse that walks very slow. Some horses walk very exuberantly causing more sensory input. This can help riders that need additional input to engage. But sometimes, too much input causes overload and in this case, we would choose a horse that walks very slowly and gingerly. We care about every rider and know the amazing things horses can do, so we try our hardest to set every rider up for success! Over the years, I have seen some remarkable events. I saw a 29-year woman say her first word on a horse. She said "Kodi", the name of her horse.



Thomas Maestas connecting with Poncho.

I had a rider with MS start to feel parts of her body that she had not felt in years after being diagnosed. I had a young man in a wheelchair ride a horse all by himself, no assistance. That was the only time in his life that he could be independent as he needs help with everyday self-care. I had a young girl that struggled with depression and suicidal ideations learn healthy ways to cope with her traumas. Horses change people's lives in different ways. What makes it easy for me to go to work every day is watching people's lives transformed by their connection with their favorite horse.

As a small non-profit, we rely heavily on volunteers. We would not be able to have our program without our volunteers. They believe in our mission, and they too are moved by the amazing connection and benefits people have with horses. We have volunteers to assist in caring for the horses and we have volunteers that assist in

the lessons and help the riders. When we ask the volunteers for their "why," they either say it is because of their personal relationship with our horses or because they get to witness our horses changing the lives of people with disabilities. Up until the last few months, we have operated out of HIPICO Santa Fe, an equestrian facility off Airport Road. We changed hundreds of lives at that location, but like any small business, we knew it was time for us to grow into our own space. We were lucky enough to find land to build a new Equine-Assisted Services facility that will support the future growth of our programs and provide more space for the herd of horses. Our New Home is about 20 minutes south of Eldorado. There are so many wonderful things to come with this move. First and foremost, our horses will now be able to live in a herd, pasture environment with free access to grass. For all the horse lovers, this is HUGE! The horses will be able to go back to their roots of living in a herd, not be confined to a stall and be able to roam around (which



Lisette enjoying her ride on her horse Maggie.

will benefit them physically), be able to release any tense or stress generated as a lesson horse, and have healthier digestive systems. We are also thrilled to have a "retirement pasture" so that when a horse is retired, they can live their life out with us. Furthermore, we chose to make this move to be able to add additional horses to serve

more riders, develop additional community supportive programs, and create new partnerships with the surrounding communities. To see this vision through, we have developed a New Home Campaign to raise \$90,000 to build a new arena, 3-sided structures for the horses to get out of the weather elements, and expenses for developing vacant land into a 5-star Equine-Assisted Services facility. This move is one of the best things that has happened to NMCTR. We are thrilled to share this with you and would love for you to visit our New Home.



NMCTR's Poncho enjoying living in a pasture.

Ashley Fischer is the NMCTR Executive Director and has been with NMCTR for over 10 years. Having ridden horses her whole life, Ashley is passionate about how horses can change the lives of those with disabilities. She attended college for Speech and Hearing Science and pursued a career in Equine-Assisted Services. The public is welcome to schedule a visit by visiting www.nmctr.org or emailing Ashley: ashley.nmctr@gmail.com.



Thomas Maestas with NMCTR's horses.

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Family Voices

FROM ARGENTINA TO NEW MEXICO

My *Au Pair* Experience

How moving to the United States to work as a nanny changed my life.

UMA PLATZ

I found out about the Au Pair program in 2021 through my dad; his step-niece had been living in California for a year at that point, and he thought it would be a good opportunity for me. I had put off my studies during the pandemic. I didn't really have anything going on, so he set me up to work as a nanny with one of his friends, so I could gain experience and see if working in childcare was a good fit for me. I ended up loving it; I worked with three kids, twins age 6 and their older brother age 8. The decision was made and I enrolled in the program.

At the beginning of 2022, my profile went live. The system works in a way that Au Pairs and American families have profiles in an online platform, and families can browse for Au Pairs, looking for people that would be an ideal match. Then families can send connection requests, and then the Au Pairs can review the family profile. Au Pairs can then accept or deny the connection. If the connection is accepted, the family and Au Pair contact each other, usually through a video call



My parents and me at the airport the day I left.

for a two-way interview, and if both parties are OK with it, a match is made. This means that the Au Pair will move in and work with that family.

In March 2022, I received my first connection: it was a family of four from Florida. We FaceTimed a couple times and exchanged a few texts, and we decided to match. Looking back, I was very naive, and that led me to not make good choices. If there's a piece of advice I would give anyone, it's don't match with the first family you talk to. Interviewing with families is difficult, and asking the right questions might not be very intuitive. Talking to more than one family will expose you to different types of situations that will eventually lead you to be aware of red flags and simple preferences you might not have known before.

I arrived in Florida on June 10, 2022. My host family wasn't there to pick me up from the airport. Instead, a private driver met me and drove me to the home. Immediately, I was in a state of shock. It was my first time traveling

to the United States, and all the information I had about it I had learned through media. So when we started driving on a six-lane highway, with big green signs passing overhead, I felt like I was in a movie. The driver dropped me off at a big house in a gated community with palm trees all around.

I only lived in Florida for a total of seven weeks. For the first three I was living in bliss, adapting to a new environment (both the Florida biome, and the new job), learning all the quirks of my new family, and getting all the initial paperwork done. Then, on a random afternoon, my host parents called me down to the kitchen and told me they wanted to rematch. Their reasoning was that I didn't have enough driving experience, but to this day I believe they had other reasons that they didn't tell me about. I was struggling with handling their two small children, one of whom had health complications I wasn't made fully aware of prior to us matching. Going into rematch was inevitable, but at that moment I was devastated. In the end, this decision was



From left to right: Jenny, Gaston, and me, having a picnic.

the best thing that could've happened to me; people in Florida were cold and unfriendly. I had never felt so alone in a crowded room.

Rematch happens when an Au Pair or a family (or both) don't think they are as good of a match as they had thought. There's a two-week period in which an Au Pair has to find a new family; if the two weeks are up and they haven't matched yet, there's three options: stay with the host family for an agreed amount of time until a match is made, move into a hotel chosen by Cultural Care, or go back home. My two weeks of rematch came and went with no connection requests, and there was no way I was going back home, and my host family didn't want me to stay at their home any longer. So I packed my stuff and moved into a hotel with another Argentinian Au Pair who was also in rematch. I stayed there for ten days, before I matched with the Schroer family from New Mexico. (Jen and Justin Schroer are the owners of *Tumbleweeds*.)

I didn't know a single thing about New Mexico before coming here. I hadn't even watched *Breaking Bad*. I was definitely nervous and the experience of rematch has left me with anxiety to this day.

From the first moment I arrived at the Albuquerque airport, things were completely different than they had been in Florida. Justin was there to pick me up, and he talked to me the whole way up to Santa Fe telling me things about New Mexico. The thing I remember the most clearly was him telling me about the Sandia Mountains, and how I found it funny that they were named after watermelons. When we got to Santa Fe, I got to meet Jen, Ryker, and Aviva (and Sprezzi, the dog). Ryker smiled big, showing me his three front teeth.



From our family photoshoot in June 2023.

At first, I was weary of opening up to my new host parents. I've always been an introverted person, and my previous experience in Florida left me a bit shaken up. Slowly but surely, I made myself comfortable, and now I consider Santa Fe my second home.

Many things happened in the year and nine months I've lived in Santa Fe. I have grown and matured, much like my host kids, who were 2 and 4 when I got here and will be 4 and 6 by the time I leave. Having been able to see Ryker and Aviva grow up has been one of the best experiences of my life. There is something new to learn everyday for them, and I have taken that as an opportunity to learn and relearn as well. I will always look back on our memories together with fondness.

My host parents, Jen and Justin, couldn't have been any cooler. I am eternally grateful for having found them. I truly believe that if it weren't for them, I wouldn't have lasted in the program for as long as I did. They have helped me out and listened to every single concern, problem, or issue I had. They understood when I felt homesick, and what I like about them the most is that they always took active steps to make me feel like I was truly part of the family.

I have met tons of people and made a handful of friends. One of the downsides, and probably the saddest part of being an Au Pair, is that you meet and befriend other Au Pairs who eventually have to leave, either because their program is over or they went into rematch. Now it's my time to leave, but what I will always keep with me is all the fun adventures I got to experience with my friends. I hope we can reunite in the future.

I will be returning home soon, just a couple days before my birthday, and I'm an emotional mess. I'm anxious about moving on from being an Au Pair, something that with time has become second nature to me, and having to find a new job. I'm sad, and I cry every time I think about saying goodbye to my host family. But I'm hopeful that it'll be more of a "see you later." I'm so excited about seeing my family again; I miss my home, my bed, my mom's cooking. I have a baby sister who was born while I was in my extension year, so I haven't met her yet. I can't wait to see all my friends and tell them all about this crazy, crazy experience.

Through highs and lows, I think being an Au Pair has changed my life, and I wouldn't be who I am today if I hadn't done this.

Uma Platz Bensak is a 22-year-old Au Pair from Buenos Aires. She's been an Au Pair for a year and nine months with Cultural Care Au Pair. She's bilingual, speaking Spanish and English fluently. During her Au Pair year, she studied ASL (American Sign Language) and is now planning on returning to continue her studies as an ASL interpreter.

A photograph of a young woman with long dark hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a light purple shirt.

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Acrylic Seagull by Willow - Art School Santa Fe courtesy photo.

Voces de la Familias

DE ARGENTINA A NUEVO MÉXICO

My *Au Pair* Experience

Cómo la experiencia de au pair en Estados Unidos ha cambiado mi vida.

UMA PLATZ

Me enteré del programa de au pair en el 2021 por medio de mi papá. Su sobrina política había estado de au pair en California durante un año para ese entonces y él pensó que sería una buena experiencia para mí también. Había suspendido mis estudios durante la pandemia y realmente no estaba muy ocupada, así es que empecé a trabajar como niñera con uno de sus amigos para adquirir un poco de experiencia y ver si este tipo de trabajo encajaba conmigo. Me encantó. Trabajé con tres niños: dos gemelos de seis años de edad y su hermano mayor, de ocho. Lo decidimos con mis padres y me inscribí en el programa de au pair.

A principios del 2022 se activó mi perfil. La forma en que funciona el programa es que au pairs y familias estadounidenses tienen perfiles en una plataforma en línea donde las familias buscan au pairs que pudieran resultar en una combinación ideal. En seguida las familias solicitan



Mis padres y yo estamos en el aeropuerto el día que salí de Argentina.

conexiones para que las au pairs tengan la oportunidad de revisar sus perfiles y decidir si aceptan la conexión o no. Si se acepta la conexión, la familia y la au pair se comunican, generalmente por medio de una llamada en video para entrevistarse, y si las dos partes están de acuerdo, proceden a hacer arreglos para que la au pair se mude y trabaje con esa familia.

En marzo del 2022, recibí mi primera conexión de una familia de cuatro miembros de Florida. Nos comunicamos por medio de FaceTime un par de veces, intercambiamos mensajes de texto y decidimos proceder con el trabajo. En retrospectiva, fui muy ingenua y eso no me llevó a hacer buenas selecciones. Si hay algún consejo que pudiera ofrecer es que no acepten a la primera familia con la que hablan. Entrevistarse con familias es difícil y es posible que hacer las preguntas correctas no sea muy intuitivo. Sin embargo, hablar con más de una familia la expone a una

a diferentes tipos de situaciones que eventualmente permiten identificar señales de alerta y preferencias que no podría haber sabido antes. Llegué a Florida el 10 de junio del 2022. Mi familia de acogida no llegó a recogerme al aeropuerto. Un conductor privado me llevó a la casa. Inmediatamente entré en un estado de choque. Era la primera vez que viajaba a Estados Unidos y toda la información que tenía la había obtenido de diferentes medios de comunicación. Así que cuando nos metimos en una carretera de seis carriles con grandes señales de tráfico verdes elevadas, me sentí como la protagonista de una película. El conductor me dejó en una casa grande en una urbanización cerrada rodeada de palmeras. Viví en Florida siete semanas únicamente. Las primeras tres estaba feliz, me adaptaba a nuevos ambientes —el del bioma de Florida y el del nuevo trabajo— aprendía todas las particularidades de mi nueva familia



De izquierda a derecha, con mis amigos Jenny y Gaston disfrutamos un día de campo.

y completaba toda la papelería inicial. Luego, en una tarde cualquiera, mis padres de acogida me llamaron a la cocina y me dijeron que querían una reconexión. La razón que dieron era que yo no tenía suficiente experiencia de conducir, pero hasta hoy pienso que tenían otras razones que no me quisieron decir. Se me dificultaba atender a los dos niños menores; uno de ellos tenía complicaciones de salud que no me dieron a conocer completamente antes de que hiciéramos el acuerdo. Una reconexión era inevitable, pero en ese momento yo estaba consternada. Al final, esta decisión fue lo mejor que me pudo haber pasado. Las personas en Florida eran frías y poco amistosas. Nunca me había sentido tan sola en una habitación llena de gente.

Se hace una reconexión cuando una au pair, o una familia, o ambas, piensan que no son la combinación que tenían en mente. La au pair tiene dos semanas para encontrar una nueva familia. Si no lo consigue, hay tres opciones: quedarse con la familia de acogida por un tiempo acordado mutuamente hasta que se hace una nueva conexión; mudarse a un hotel que escoge Cultural Care; o regresar al país de origen. Mis dos semanas para reconectar pasaron sin que hubiese solicitud de conexión y de ninguna manera me iba a regresar a mi casa. La familia de acogida no quería que me quedara más tiempo con ellos. Entonces empaqué mis cosas y me mudé a un hotel con otra au pair argentina que también estaba en el mismo proceso. Me quedé ahí 10 días antes de conectarme con la familia Schroer de Nuevo México. (Jen y Justin Schroer son los dueños de esta revista



Ryker, Aviva y yo compramos pizza.

Tumbleweeds). Antes de llegar, no sabía absolutamente nada de Nuevo México. Ni siquiera había mirado el programa de televisión Breaking Bad. Definitivamente, estaba nerviosa y la experiencia de reconexión me ha dejado con ansiedad hasta el día de hoy.

Desde el momento en que llegué al aeropuerto de Albuquerque, las cosas fueron completamente diferentes de lo que fueron en Florida. Justin fue a recogerme y me platicó por todo el trayecto hasta Santa Fe, contándome cosas sobre Nuevo México. Lo que recuerdo muy claramente fue lo que me dijo de las montañas Sandía y lo divertido que me pareció que tuvieran el nombre de una fruta. Cuando llegamos a Santa Fe, pude conocer a Jen, Ryker y Aviva (y Sprezzi, el perro). Ryker tenía una gran sonrisa que me mostró sus tres dientes delanteros.

Al principio estaba cansada de abrirme a mis padres de acogida. Siempre he sido una persona introvertida y mi experiencia en Florida me dejó un poco conmocionada. Lenta pero seguramente me fui sintiendo más cómoda y ahora considero Santa Fe mi segundo hogar.

Muchas cosas sucedieron en el año y nueve meses que he vivido en Santa Fe. He crecido y madurado tanto como los chicos de mis anfitriones, quienes tenían dos y cuatro años de edad cuando llegué aquí y tendrán cuatro y seis para cuando me vaya. Poder ver a Ryker y Aviva crecer ha sido una de las mejores experiencias de mi vida. Hay algo nuevo que aprender diariamente de ellos y he aprovechado eso como una oportunidad para aprender y reaprender también. Siempre recordaré con afecto las memorias que hemos creado.

Mis padres de acogida, Jen y Justin, no pudieron haber sido más buena onda. Estoy eternamente agradecida por haberlos encontrado. Realmente creo que si no fuera por ellos, no hubiera tardado en el programa todo este tiempo. Me han ayudado y escuchado toda preocupación o problema que he tenido. Entendieron cuando sentí nostalgia por mi familia. Lo que más me gusta de ellos es que siempre fueron proactivos para hacerme sentir que era de verdad parte de la familia.

He conocido un montón de gente y hecho unos cuantos amigos. Una de las desventajas, y probablemente lo más triste de ser au pair, es que una conoce y hace amistad con otros au pairs que eventualmente tienen que irse, ya sea porque el programa terminó o tuvieron que hacer una reconexión. Ahora es mi turno para partir, pero algo que siempre me acompañará es el recuerdo de todas las aventuras divertidas que tuve con mis amigos. Espero que podamos reunirnos en el futuro. Pronto, un par de días antes de mi cumpleaños, regresaré a mi casa y



Tomada en la sesión fotográfica de la familia de acogida, junio del 2023.

soy un desastre emocional. Me siento ansiosa de pasar de ser au pair, algo a lo cual me he acostumbrado, a tener que encontrar un nuevo trabajo. Estoy triste y lloro cada vez que pienso que tengo que despedir a mi familia de acogida. Pero espero que sea algo más que “hasta luego”. Estoy muy emocionada por ver a mi familia nuevamente; extraño mi hogar, mi cama, la comida de mi mamá. Tengo una hermanita que nació cuando

yo estaba en mi año de prórroga, así es que todavía no la conozco. Ya no veo la hora de ver a todas mis amigas y contarles todo sobre esta experiencia de locura.

Por todos los altibajos, pienso que ser au pair ha cambiado mi vida y no sería quien soy ahora si no hubiera hecho esto.

Uma Platz Bensak, 22, es una au pair de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ha sido au pair del programa Cultural Care Au Pair por 21 meses. Habla español e inglés bien y durante este tiempo ha estudiado lengua de signos americana (ASL por sus siglas en inglés). Piensa volver a EE. UU. para seguir sus estudios como intérprete de ASL.

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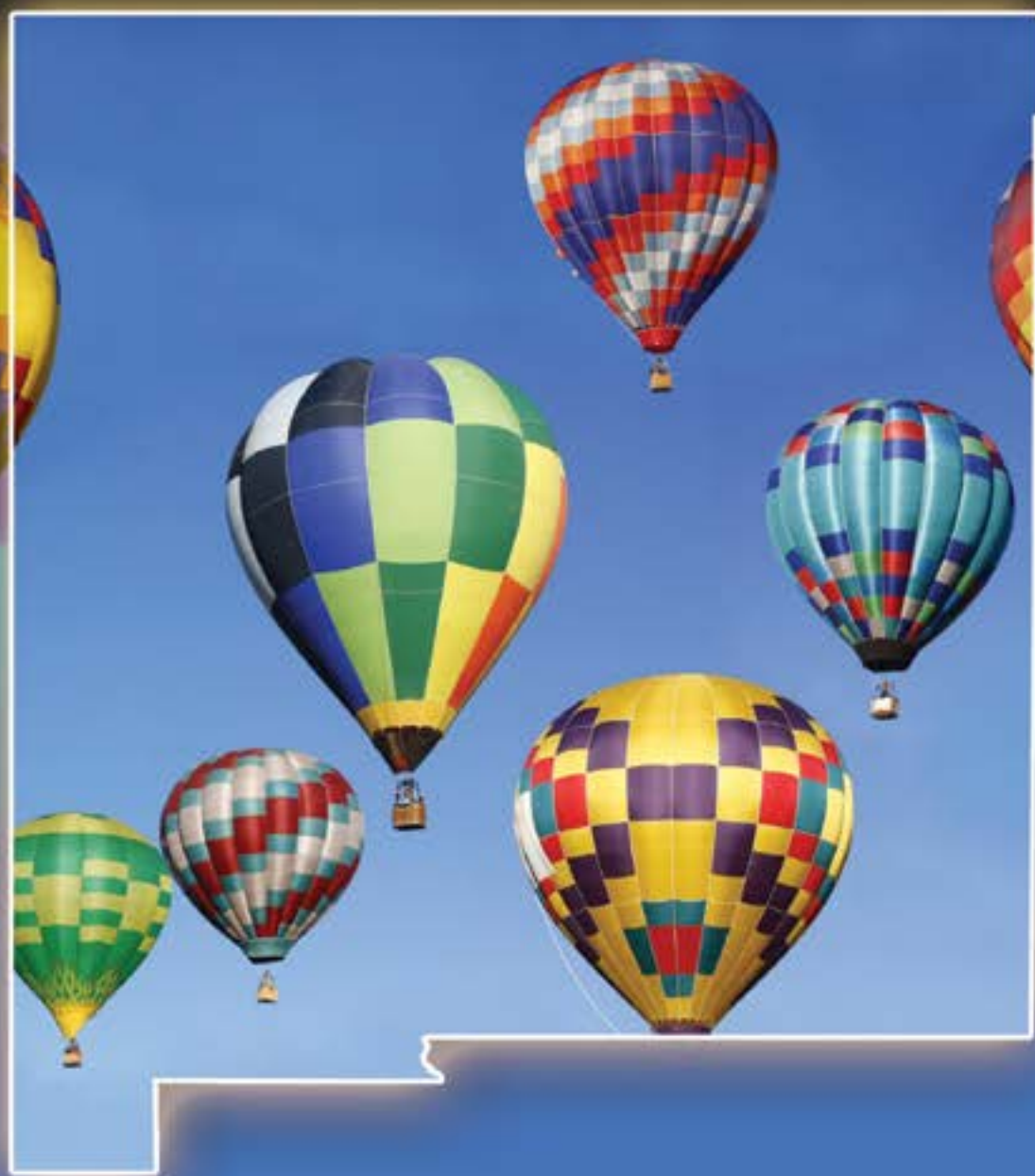
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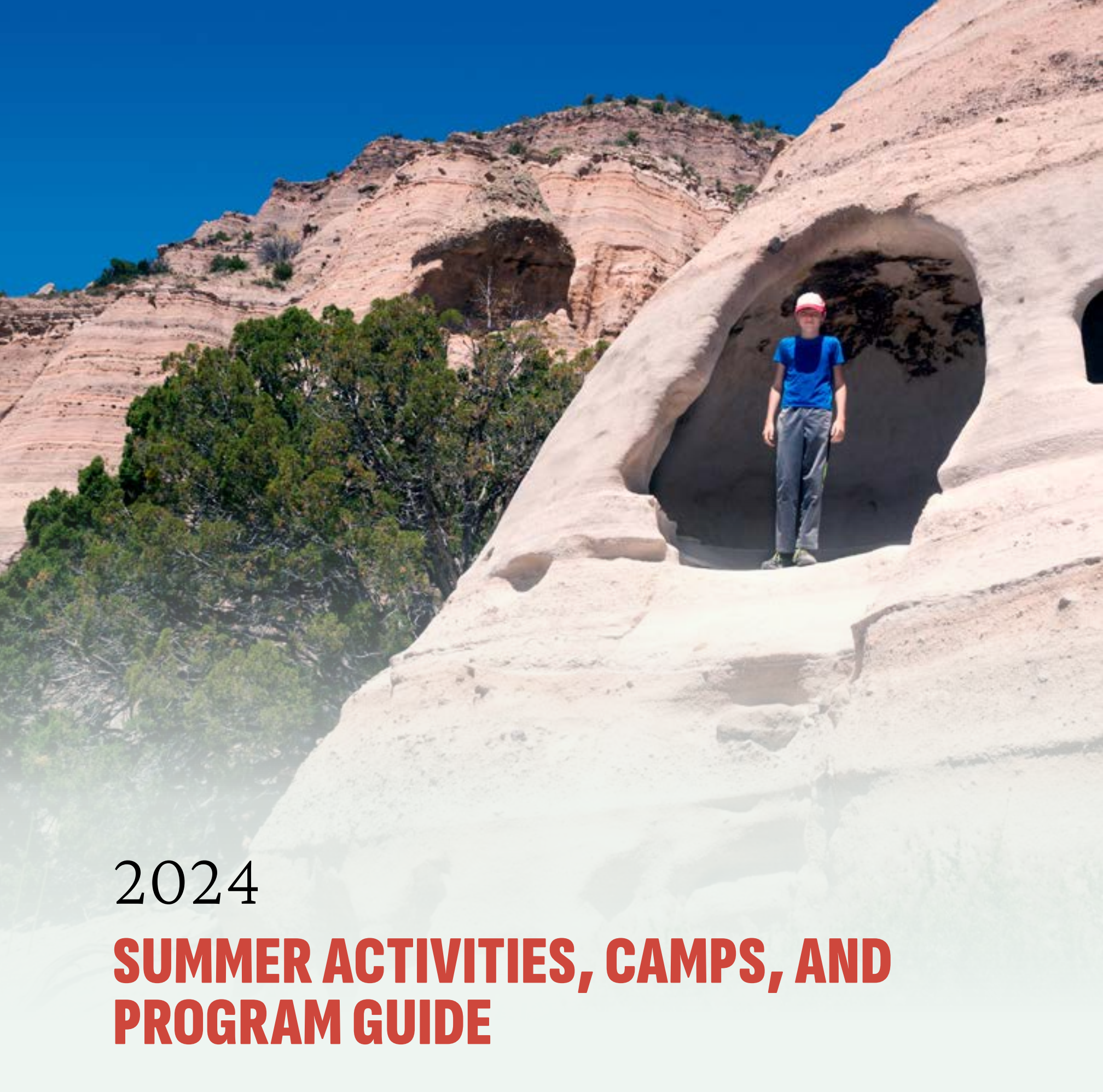
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2024

SUMMER ACTIVITIES, CAMPS, AND PROGRAM GUIDE

The **#1 Guide** for Northern New Mexico Summer Activities, Camps, and Programs from Early Childhood through High School

2024 SUMMER GUIDE

LEGEND

- EARLY CHILDHOOD
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- PRE-KINDERGARTEN
- MIDDLE SCHOOL
- KINDERGARTEN
- HIGH SCHOOL

ART SCHOOL SANTA FE: ART SUMMER CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS

Join us this summer to gain new art skills and explore your imagination. Offering camps for ages elementary and up, starting at \$250. Register by May 1 for an early bird discount! Topics include fantasy and anthropomorphic creatures, acrylic painting, Yokai and Kaiju, manga and anime characters, fantasy creature design, portraits and figures, and oil painting.

505-364-3256 | artschoolsantafe.com

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET: BALLET SUMMER CLASSES

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet School is holding eight-week summer sessions (Jun 3 to Jul 27). Weekly classes and weeklong workshops in ballet, pointe, and jazz. Ages 4 to 18. Registration begins Mar 15.

505-983-5591 | aspensantafeballet.com

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL

ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET: FOLKLÓRICO SUMMER CLASSES

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Folklórico is holding seven-week summer sessions (Jun 8 to Jul 27). Classes every Saturday for ages 5 to 18. Registration begins March 15.

505-983-5591 | aspensantafeballet.com

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE COMPANY

Santa Fe's most active and enriched summer camp for K to 7th grade, in operation for more than 37 years. Provides age-appropriate outdoor field trips, including rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, survival skills, gardening, cooking, science, art, and yoga, Friday field trips and more. Weekly camps start

May 27 and end Aug 9. For working parents' convenience, we operate from 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. at no extra charge.

505-988-7201

santafechildremsadventure.org

- KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DARRUMA JIUJITSU & YOGA: SUMMER CAMP

Darruma's summer camp includes jiu jitsu, yoga, art, and outdoor play. We learn the forms and philosophy of jiu jitsu through technique, specific training, and sparring. Studying yoga, kids experience the benefits of body awareness through stretching, strength exercises, and stillness. Process-oriented art projects give kids a chance to play freely with materials and deepen their creative capacity. From Darruma, we walk to local parks to play, explore, and see how accessible rich outdoor experiences can be. We look forward to deepening our relationship with this community as we connect and grow together.

505-587-2272 | darruma.com

- PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

DRAGONFLY ART STUDIO

Through the arts, children learn to think creatively and build confidence, and are challenged to solve problems while developing their ability to focus. Enrollment is open for our in-studio summer camp and our no-school art days when there is no school. You can celebrate creatively with customized art birthday parties, holiday gatherings, and get-togethers with family in the studio. Enroll yourself or your child to discover your inner artist. Custom art classes stimulate imagination, creativity, and experimentation with a wide range of art media and materials to inspire the art zone through life.

505-670-5019 | dragonflyartsf.com

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

STEAM

Garden EXPLORING

BUILDING KIDS' CONFIDENCE IN THE OUTDOORS

CHRISTIE COLLINS

We have a lot of exciting things happening at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden on Museum Hill this year. We've returned to much of the programming that was offered before COVID, and we are thrilled to be introducing many new activities.

As someone with a background in outdoor education, I love getting all ages outside in nature. Research shows that it's important and beneficial to start teaching outdoor skills and how to enjoy spending time in nature at an early age.



Campers learn about bugs!

New this year: Garden Explorer Summer Camp This is a new program for the Garden that I'm excited about. I have been involved in teaching and directing summer camps throughout my career. I feel it is a program that is essential for all organizations that teach nature and environmental stewardship.

Our Garden Explorer Summer Camp offers a unique experience, designed for children ages 6 to 15, combining outdoor education, plant identification, hiking, and practical skills like map reading and compass use, all aimed at instilling a deep appreciation for the natural world.

Our mission for this summer camp is to forge a strong connection with nature, which is essential for the well-being and development of children. Each day, campers are immersed in the diverse ecosystems surrounding the garden, engaging in activities that foster a sense of wonder and respect for the environment. Being a unique Botanical Garden due to our location, one of the key components of our camp is plant identification. Experienced educators guide the children through the garden's diverse cultivated and native flora, teaching them to recognize various species, understand their ecological roles, and appreciate their beauty. This hands-on approach not only educates but can inspire a lifelong interest in botany and conservation.

Hiking is another cornerstone of the camp experience. Trails winding through the garden and its surrounding areas offer perfect opportunities for exploration and adventure. Along these trails and arroyos, campers learn to study the landscape, observing how different plants and animals interact within their habitats. One of the most exciting aspects of the camp is learning about tracks and scat. These activities turn every walk into a detective adventure, as campers learn to identify the signs left by different animals. This not only teaches wildlife identification skills but also informs important lessons about the local ecosystem and the creatures that inhabit it.

In an age dominated by digital technology, teaching traditional navigational skills like map reading and compass use is both novel and essential. These skills empower campers, boosting their confidence and independence while ensuring they feel comfortable and safe in natural settings.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the camp is the way it helps children feel confident and comfortable in nature. By the end of the program, campers will not only learn about the environment but will also develop a sense of stewardship and responsibility towards it. The impact of this summer camp extends beyond the individual experiences of the campers. By fostering a generation of environmentally conscious individuals, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden is contributing to the broader community's sense of awareness and engagement in environmental issues.

Our hope for the children who attend our camp this summer is to inspire



Orchard Garden

a lifelong journey of environmental exploration, appreciation, and stewardship. The skills, knowledge, and passions cultivated during camp can positively continue to influence their choices and actions long after the summer ends.

Another new aspect that we are very excited about is the future addition of our Children’s Discovery Garden. This new area is in the very early stages of planning, and we feel this space will not only enhance the botanical garden’s appeal to a broader audience, including families with children, but it will also serve as an educational and engaging setting where children can learn about nature, science, and the environment through play and exploration.

With our goals dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of nature among younger visitors, here are some of the features our visitors can look forward to in the Children’s Discovery Garden.

Interactive Learning: These include hands-on experiences for children to engage directly with the natural world. Examples could involve interactive exhibits to learn about plant life cycles, ecology, and the importance of biodiversity.

Unstructured Play: This is crucial for cognitive and social development. The garden will provide a space for children to use their imagination and creativity while interacting with natural elements. This also includes natural play structures made from wood or stone.

Educational Programs: These are designed for children and their families. Examples include guided tours, workshops on gardening and plant care, insect life cycles, bird watching, the importance of pollinators, along with other science-related activities. **Sensory Experiences:** Designed to stimulate all the senses, with colorful plants,



Families enjoying an Arts Alive! activity making seed balls.

sustainable gardening practices.

Community Connection: The Garden will serve as a community hub, where local schools and groups can come together to learn about and appreciate the natural world.

Wildlife Observation: Areas will include bird feeders, butterfly gardens, and small habitats where children can observe and learn about local wildlife.

Technology Integration: This includes interactive apps and QR codes that provide information about the plants and activities in the garden, making learning fun and modern.

Overall, the addition of the Children’s Discovery Garden is an investment in the future, aiming to inspire the next generation of scientists, ecologists, and nature enthusiasts. The key to a successful Children’s Discovery Garden will be to create a balance between structured educational activities and unstructured play, allowing children the freedom to explore and interact with nature in their own way. There are many more fun and educational programs throughout the year, like our annual Egg Hunt, Arts Alive!, Nighttime Mothing, and our famous Pumpkin Carving Contest, just to name a few. All our programs focus on nurturing a deep, and enduring connection between children and the natural world—an important connection that promises to enrich their lives and guide them in the years to come.

Christie Collins is the director of education and interpretation at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. She has a BS in business and biology and an MS in parks, recreation, and tourism management with an emphasis on park and conservation area management. During her more than 15-year career, her passion and focus have been on outdoor education and conservation for all ages.



Kids learning about deer habitat.

various textures of plants and materials, fragrant herbs, and the sounds of nature, contributing to a full sensory experience.

Water Feature: Children can learn about water conservation focusing on the best practices for a warmer and drier climate.

Conservation Awareness and Eco-Friendly Practices: Designed to teach children from an early age about composting, recycling, and

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ETIQUETTE SCHOOL OF SANTA FE: MANNERS CAMP

Good manners will always open the door to opportunity. Build a foundation of self confidence, kindness, and thoughtful awareness. Empower your child (or yourself) to navigate social and academic encounters with ease. Topics include: first impressions, introductions, handshakes, thank-you notes, techie tweens, conversation skills, interview prep, public speaking, dining skills, and more. Bespoke private, group, and family sessions from ages 5 and up. Classes are lovingly taught by certified etiquette consultant and newspaper columnist Bizia Greene, who trained at the American School of Protocol and Debrett’s of London.

505-988-2070 | EtiquetteSantaFe.com

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

GLORIETA ADVENTURE CAMPS: DAY CAMPS

Day camp is a five-day camp experience unlike any other. Kids, ages 6 to 13, are invited to our fun-filled, action-packed, Christ-centered program that’s loaded with activities and learning experiences. At Glorieta Day Camp, kids create lifelong memories as they encounter God’s creation, God’s word, and embark on the adventures and memories of a lifetime. Because they’re able to go home at the end of the day, it’s a great way to ease kids into the camp experience. New Friends. Real Adventures. God’s Truth. We can’t wait to meet your child and introduce them to the wonder of camp.

505-545-8851 | Glorieta.org

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

HANDS-ON HERITAGE SANTA FE SUMMER PROGRAM

Five-week experiential learning program for kids entering 4-8 grade. Participants go on two field trips per week to explore the environment, history and culture of Northern New Mexico. They also garden, cook and do art projects, among other hands-on activities. Breakfast and lunch are provided. The program is offered at El Camino Real Academy starting Jun through Jul; exact dates are TBD. The program cost is \$50 per week and scholarships are available.

512-585-0419 | facebook.com/HandsOnHeritageSantaFe.

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED ECOLOGY: FOREST BOUND

During this fun, immersive, week-long program, students learn about native plants through experiential, hands-on, and engaging lessons in Cibola National Forest. This program is designed for middle and high school age youths. Together, we explore native plants through a botanical, environmental, social, and cultural lens. Students learn how to use botanical terms to identify plants, practice seed collection methods, cook with plants, and much more. Guest speakers from different environmental fields join some days throughout the sessions. They provide expert knowledge and a glimpse of careers in conservation as well as opportunities to get involved in conservation work.

704-430-0293 | appliedeco.org/education/forestbound/

● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

2024 SUMMER GUIDE

J.F. MAZUR ART STUDIO: FINE ART CAMP

Fine art camps for creative children ages 5 to 12. Weekly half-day camps in drawing, painting, multimedia, sculpture, and ceramics. Each camp week features a new set of lessons in a variety of media. Five or more multi-process artworks will be created in each camp. Taught by artist and certified art teacher Jillian Mazur. Spring Break Camp starts Mar 25; summer camps begin May 27. Teen and tween workshops are Jun 3–5 and Jul 15–19.

240-321-9212 | jfmazurstudio.com

● PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JOURNEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL: SUMMER ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Journey Montessori School, a nature-based Montessori in Santa Fe, will be offering two weeks of summer programming in July. The Summer Adventure Program will focus on movement and guided learning in nature. Learning opportunities will include outdoor skills, art and handwork, and lessons on local flora

and fauna using sensory experiences while building a deeper love for our natural world.

505-652-1986

journeymontessorischool.org

● PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MAY CENTER FOR LEARNING: SUMMER LEAP

Summer LEAP is an intensive, individualized program targeting essential reading, writing, and oral communication skills in a small group setting. The curriculum empowers all students to understand their own learning style, teaching them how to advocate for their needs in the classroom and with their peers. On average, Summer LEAP students make one grade level of progress in their reading skills during the six-week program. This program is most appropriate for students with diagnosed learning differences, those students who want to make gains in their academic skills over the summer, and those transitioning to a new school or program.

505-870-5439

maycenter.org/may-summer-leap

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL



Dragonfly Art Studio courtesy photo.

MOUNTAIN KIDS!

Mountain Kids! is Santa Fe's camp for outdoor adventure and nature connection. Campers ages 5 to 13 go on daily adventures in the mountains where they explore, learn, and play. Campers gain wilderness skills and learn about the natural world as they gain confidence, build resilience, and learn to work as a team. Our counselor-in-training program is for ages 14 to 17 who wish to gain leadership skills and have fun outside with kids.

505-886-1207 | sfmountainkids.com

● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

MOVING ARTS ESPAÑOLA: SUMMER SEMESTER

Moving Arts Española provides high-quality, affordable performing and visual arts education and free nutritional support for children and young adults. Our programs promote the creative, physical, social, and emotional health and well-being of children and youth of Northern New Mexico. Join classes for the Moving Arts Española summer semester, Jun 3 to Jul 12. Classes are Monday through Thursday and include flamenco, folklorico, hip-hop, ballet, gymnastics, tumbling, keyboard, violin, guitar, singing, visual arts, photo/video, 3-D printing, drama, CAD drawing and design, cooking, aquaponics, sewing and fashion design, and more.

844-623-2787 | movingartsespanola.org

● EARLY CHILDHOOD ● PRE-KINDERGARTEN
● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

MY LITTLE HORSE LISTENER: MINI MENTOR PROGRAM FOR PRETEENS & TEENS

Miniature horses serve as mentors to girls facing adolescent challenges. Examples of social/emotional skills taught by the horses include leadership, communication, good decision making, and awareness of one's self in

connection with another living being. Program is free with one-hour weekly sessions, individual or group, for four weeks. Flexible start and end times.

505-469-1285 | mylittlehorselistener.org

● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE CENTER: TOURS AND ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Come visit New Mexico Wildlife Center for Animal Encounter programs, Tuesday through Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Each day's animal encounter features one of our 20-plus resident ambassador animals. While you're here, take a self-guided tour of our scenic wildlife walk to learn more about New Mexico's wildlife and ecosystems. Open hours for visitors are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and the Animal Encounter program is free with admission.

505-753-9505

newmexicowildlifecenter.org

● EARLY CHILDHOOD ● PRE-KINDERGARTEN
● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL
● OTHER

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER: SUMMER PROGRAMS

Looking for a summer program that your child will love? The Pajarito Environmental Education Center in Los Alamos is thrilled to announce the return of its popular summer programs. Your child will have a blast exploring the outdoors, connecting with nature, and making new friends. There's something for every child, with options like Pathfinders for kids entering grades 1–3, Nature Odyssey for grades 4–6, Space Camp for grades 4–6, and the Living Earth Adventure Program (LEAP) for grades 7–8. Registration for the June summer camps is now open.

505-662-0460 | peechnature.org

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL




Art School Santa Fe

Now Enrolling for
Passionate Young Artists

Summer Art Camps

On Santa Fe's South Side
artschoolsantafe.com [@artschoolsantafe](https://www.instagram.com/artschoolsantafe)
(505) 364-3256





Morning outdoor play and afternoon activities include:

- *Water play
- *Crafts
- *Organized sports
- *Hikes
- *Mindful Minutes
- *Climbing wall

Full day enrichment include:

- *Arts
- *Theatre
- *Science
- *Robotics
- *Music
- *Language
- *Exploration
- And more.....

RIO GRANDE SCHOOL

SUMMER CAMP

2024

COME LEARN AND PLAY WITH US!

riograndeschool.org/summer | 505-983-1621

Weekly camps for children aged three through 12 (6th grade)
Beginning June 17th and Ending Aug 9th
9am-4pm Daily
Camps taught by RGS Educators
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1st

RIO GRANDE SCHOOL

CHALLENGING, INSPIRING, AND NURTURING CHILDREN SINCE 1978

AGE 3 - GRADE 6

Rio Grande School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national or ethnic origin.

PASEO POTTERY: SUMMER CAMP

Five-day pottery camps designed for kids ages 5 to 12 all summer long. Students will learn basic pottery hand-building techniques, including making pinch pots, coil pots, and slab rolling, and will also get to take a spin on the pottery wheel. At the end of the camp, students choose their favorite three pieces to be fired, and will come back a few weeks later to pick up their works of art. Cost: \$225. Use the code Tumbleweeds10 for a 10% discount.

505-988-7687 | paseopottery.as.me/KIDS

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

QUEEN BEE MUSIC ASSOCIATION: KIDS MUSIC CAMP

Come jam with us! Offering weeklong day camps this summer for kids ages 5 to 15. From ukulele to fiddle, bluegrass to beat-making, kids and teens unleash their musical curiosity in these fun-filled camps. No experience necessary! Tuition: \$305-\$330, with tuition assistance available to qualifying families. See the full list of camps on our website.

505-278-0012

QueenBeeMusicAssociation.org

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON: SPRING BREAK CAMP

Join us for a fun week of nature-based games and activities that encourage an understanding and appreciation of the outdoors. Audubon educators guide campers, ages 5 to 12, through hands-on science explorations, crafts, and more! Our Spring Break Camp is offered Mar 25-29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$285. Extended aftercare is available.

Center phones currently down

randalldavey.audubon.org/camp

● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

RIO GRANDE SCHOOL: SUMMER CAMP

Camp is offered to children aged through sixth graders. Campers choose from a list of excellent enrichment classes that are taught by our very own RGS educators. Morning outdoor play goes from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Enrichment classes run from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. And afternoon exploration and activities run from 2 to 4 p.m.

505-983-1621

riograndeschool.org/summer/

● EARLY CHILDHOOD ● PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AFTER SCHOOL KIDS CLASSES

Options for ages 5-10 and 11-16

Classes meet once per week, for 5 weeks

See our calendar!

5 DAY POTTERY CAMPS

Ages 5-12

Offered in June/July and over spring break

LET YOUR KID'S CREATIVITY FLOW!

Use code Tumbleweeds10 for 10% off!

1273 Calle de Comercio | Santa Fe, NM

PASEO POTTERY

RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON: SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS

Not your ordinary summer camp! Eight weeks of nature day camps for ages 5 to 12. Each week emphasizes new themes where campers can discover, investigate, and play through activities that encourage an understanding, appreciation, and love of nature. Educators guide campers through hands-on science explorations and outdoor fun while surrounded by the natural beauty of Santa Fe. Weekly camps are offered Jun 3 to Jul 25, Mon-Fri, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$285 per week. Extended aftercare is available.

Center phones currently down

randalldavey.audubon.org/camp

● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

SANTA FE BOTANICAL GARDEN: GARDEN EXPLORER CAMP

During this three-day outdoor day camp, your child will hike the arroyos, explore the piñon-juniper woodland, learn animal tracking, and ID plants along with enjoying plenty of fun games and activities.

505-471-9103

santafebotanicalgarden.org

● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

2024 SUMMER GUIDE

SANTA FE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: SUMMER EXPLORERS CAMP

Choose from seven weeks of jam-packed thematic STEAM fun. Each week features new and engaging hands-on educational activities to explore. Led by our experienced museum educators, every week includes daily private playtimes (inside and out), community guests, games, science experiments, cooking, art projects, and more. For ages 5 to 9, camps run Mon through Fri, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jun 10–28 and Jul 8–Aug 2. \$375 per camper per week. Scholarship application available online.

505-989-8359
santafechildrensmuseum.org
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

SANTA FE GIRLS SCHOOL: GIRLS EXPLORE!

Join us for weeklong summer camps as we explore the world through writing, cooking, field trips, art projects, and more! Due to limited space, each camper can sign up for up to two of the three weeks offered: Jul 1–5, Jul 8–12, and Jul 15–19.

505-820-3188 | santafegirlsschool.org/summer-camp
● MIDDLE SCHOOL

SANTA FE JEWISH CENTER CHABAD: JEWISH KIDS CAMP GAN ISRAEL

Camp Gan Israel is an exciting summer adventure aimed at providing a meaningful, fun-filled experience for Jewish children in the Santa Fe area. Meet other kids like you, connect with a thriving Jewish community, and explore your Jewish heritage in a way you've never experienced!

505-983-2000 | santafejcc.com
● PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL

SANTA FE MUSIC CHAMBER FESTIVAL EDUCATION

Festival Family Day! Enjoy a free young people's concert and related activities on Jul 29 at the St. Francis Auditorium of the New Mexico Museum of Art. The day begins at 10 a.m. with festival artists Ran Dank, piano; Daniel Phillips, violin; and Keith Robinson, cello. A meet-and-greet with the musicians and art activities in the courtyard immediately follow the concert. Lunch discounts at Taos Ale House. Free busing for school groups, and/or art activities by reservation only.

505-983-2075
santafechambermusic.com
Elementary, Middle School, High School
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
● HIGH SCHOOL

SANTA FE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Keep the music alive during the summer! Welcoming students who play a string, brass, or woodwind instrument. Classes are led by professional educators in a noncompetitive environment. For the string player, there are three levels of orchestra offered. For the wind player, one premier wind ensemble is offered. All string and wind students will participate in chorus, music theory, and marimba classes. Students will be taken on a field trip to tour the Santa Fe Opera House. Each week will end with spectacular performances. Sessions: Jul 8–12 or Jul 15–19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

505-660-1964
santafeschoolofmusic.org
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
● HIGH SCHOOL



Dragonfly Art Studio courtesy photo.



SANTA FE
Girls Explore!
SUMMER CAMP

A summer camp
for girls
ages 9-11

Register now;
space is limited!

310 W. ZIA ROAD
505.820.3188

WWW.SANTAFEGIRLSSCHOOL.ORG

SANTA FE SKATE SCHOOL: SKATEBOARD CAMP

Young skateboard riders ages 8 and up will get expert instruction. Mornings at public skate parks and afternoon at our indoor park. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 27–31, Jun 3–7, Jun 17–21, Jul 8–12, Jul 15–19. \$350. At our longboard camps, riders age 9 and up will ride the school's boards and learn to turn, stop, and slide while cruising local bike paths and our indoor park. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jun 10–12, Jul 1–3, Jul 22–24. \$220.

505-474-0074 | skateboardsafety.com
● PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
● HIGH SCHOOL ● OTHER

SANTA FE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS & SCIENCES: CAMPS

A variety of engaging developmentally appropriate camps for children ages 3 to 15 led by experienced teachers at Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences. One-week themed camps cost \$325 per week, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with before and after care available at additional cost. Financial aid and ECECD available. Theme examples include: Bug Out, Ooey Goey Art, Young Artist Studio, Space Camp, Math = Creativity, Wilderness Adventure, Inventor's Workshop, Live Action Role Playing Games, Filmmaking.

505-438-8585 | SantaFeSchool.org
● PRE-KINDERGARTEN ● KINDERGARTEN
● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ● MIDDLE SCHOOL
● HIGH SCHOOL

SANTA FE CLIMBING CENTER: SUMMER CAMPS

Santa Fe Climbing Center creates a stimulating environment. Climbers at all levels will push their physical and mental limits while having fun exploring the world of indoor rock climbing. Challenges and climbing games led by our experienced instructors promote teamwork, confidence, flexibility, balance, problem solving, and more. Weekly sessions are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Before and aftercare available. Starts May 28. Camps are in the following age groups: 5–8, 9–13, and 12–15. \$249 per session.

505-986-8944 | climbsantafe.com/after-school-summer-camps
● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
● MIDDLE SCHOOL ● HIGH SCHOOL

THE ALLEY SANTA FE: KIDS BOWL FREE

Kids 12 years and younger can sign up for the program to bowl Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two free games each day (maximum of 1 hour). Shoes are extra.

505-557-6789 | thealleysantafe.com
● EARLY CHILDHOOD ● PRE-KINDERGARTEN
● KINDERGARTEN ● ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THE CANDYMAN STRINGS & THINGS: SUMMER ROCK CAMP

Experience the ultimate rockstar journey at the Candyman Summer Rock Camp! In this two-week program, rockers delve into the world of rehearsals, recording,

and performance. Participants will form a band, collaborate, and gain insights from the pros. Bands also score an on-air interview at 98.1 Radio Free Santa Fe! The program is capped off with a live concert, complete with VIP badges. Perks include a catered Picnic Friday, photos of the entire experience, videos and photos of the concert, a concert poster, camp swag, a digital album, and more.

505-983-5906
candymansf.com/summer-rock-camp

● **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** ● **MIDDLE SCHOOL**
 ● **HIGH SCHOOL**

THEATRE SANTA FE: CHILDREN’S THEATRE FESTIVAL

The Children’s Theatre Festival is a one-day event on May 25 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Children will enjoy performances from some of Santa Fe’s finest actors in multiple short presentations. They will also be able to make some fun crafts and get their faces painted.

505-428-8508 | theatresantafe.org

● **EARLY CHILDHOOD** ● **PRE-KINDERGARTEN**
 ● **KINDERGARTEN** ● **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

WISE FOOL: SUMMER CIRCUS CAMP

Kids in Santa Fe can run away with the circus! Our popular circus camps are physically active, teamwork oriented,

and a ton of fun. Learn stilt-walking, unicycling, aerial fabric, trapeze, juggling, puppet making, clowning and more! All in a safe, noncompetitive environment. July 1–12 is All Levels, Continuing Camp in late July, Wee Kids Camp and Teen Camp in June. Camps fill up quickly! Tuition assistance and after-care available.

505-992-2588 | wisefoolnewmexico.org

● **PRE-KINDERGARTEN** ● **KINDERGARTEN**
 ● **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** ● **MIDDLE SCHOOL**
 ● **HIGH SCHOOL**

YMCA OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO: SUMMER DAY CAMP

YMCA Day Camp is a curriculum-based summer program designed to keep your child active and safe throughout the summer. Character development plays a big role in our camps. Respect, responsibility, honesty and caring are values we use daily with our campers. You can rest assured that your child will be in a safe and nurturing environment that offers a different activity for him/her to participate in every hour of the day. The curriculum is based on weekly themes and includes arts and humanities, health, wellness and fitness, literacy, character development, and social competence and conflict resolution.

505-595-1515 | ymcacnm.org

● **PRE-KINDERGARTEN** ● **KINDERGARTEN**
 ● **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** ● **MIDDLE SCHOOL**



Ditch the screens and get out on real-life adventures with Mountain Kids!

Celebrating 16 years of *Getting Kids Out To Play*

www.sfmountainkids.com



SANTA FE SCHOOL FOR THE
ARTS & SCIENCES




SUMMER CAMP

Ages 3 through 14

JUNE 10 - AUG 2

Financial Aid Available

santafeschool.org (505) 438-8585

An Independent Expeditionary Learning School

Camping *in* New Mexico

Springtime means planning for sleep-under-the-stars season in the Land of Enchantment.

BRENDA FLEMING

Brenda Fleming takes a picture of a friend while hiking in the Organ mountains.

“What do you actually do camping? Like, sit around and drink beer? I don’t get it.”

My coworker had just moved from Alabama to New Mexico. Camping was not something she had been exposed to—yet.

In New Mexico, most people love camping. Perhaps it’s the stars, or the lack of bugs (comparatively), or the quiet, crisp nights. Or maybe, it’s the adventure and exploration.

What do we do? I didn’t know how to answer that. Every place is special and different.

The Pecos Wilderness looks like an expansive backdrop to any going-out-west movie. My family of five likes to camp at Field Tract Campground, which borders the Pecos River and is shaded with ponderosa giants. One particularly hot day, we had a big circular watermelon-slice-shaped floatie and rode down the length of the campsite over and over again. There were a couple big rocks that formed a swoop in the water, making a wave that was nothing less than inner-kid-screamin’ joy.

Another favorite spot to camp and cool off is Rianna Campground at Abiquiu Lake. Abiquiu’s teal water is surrounded by a layer of soft red and orange rock. It looks like neapolitan ice cream, but instead of strawberry, chocolate and vanilla, it’s more like strawberry, orange, and tangerine. The sunsets are the best on the planet. (Nope, not debatable.) I remember one particular evening trying out a new paddle board and having an endless monsoon sunset sky above and the reflection around me on the expanses of glassy water. Magical.

Every year in college, I used to take my little brothers camping, and Abiquiu was the choice destination. One year, we were determined to “catch” our food for the camp trip, and ended up with two crawdads. Despite not having brought along any other food, my sister had given me a Moroccan spice kit which was somehow still in my ‘93 Corolla. We opened the spice gift and cooked up those crawdads Five-Michilin-Stars style—amounting to about a quarter-size of meat.

Now, as a mother of three, I asked my kids about their funniest camping memory. They immediately brought up Navajo Lake State Park. One by one, each kid shared how they managed to fall into a cactus. The “funny” part was when it happened to the other sibling. My kids (Daphne, age 11; Donna, 10; and Eli, 5) had a blast there this past summer. They went inner tubing, caught a bull snake, and made prickly pear juice. Donna had

read something about making prickly pear juice by filtering the cactus fruit through a sock.

“It actually wasn’t bad!” Daphne told me as we hiked down to the lake, “It tasted sorta like mango... and dirty sock.”

I suppose finding quality food in the outdoors doesn’t run in my family.

The Jemez Mountains, which were formed by a super volcano, offer mud pots and hot springs to explore thanks to the geothermal activity. Limestone deposits in certain nooks allow for fossil hunting. I took my little brothers, and later my own kids, on these nature treasure hunts for little ancient sea creatures and sea plants. My favorite campsite in the Jemez Mountains is San Antonio. The little paved paths along a creek are perfect for kids on bikes to go up and down all day, and across the road there is the trailhead for San Antonio Hot Springs. Last year, we met my sister and her husband’s family at this campsite. His parents cooked up a massive pot of red chile which they served over hotdogs with cheese and onions. The chile was delectable. This amazing food memory might be another reason San Antonio forever has a place in my heart.

Let’s be honest, a good meal in the woods can forge a lifelong happy memory.

Take Elephant Butte, New Mexico’s desert beach for example. A fantastic place to play in the sand, jump in the water, and get a sunburn so bad you’ll be left crying. I remember being a poor college student, and late at night when the sand and sky cooled off, some elderly folks beckoned my group over to their fire and (perhaps sensing our hunger) fed us the best freakin’ fajitas I’ve ever eaten.

Another memorable meal was chili and cast-iron-skillet cornbread on a particularly cold camp trip. The setting sun pitched golden light on the fortress of canyons that partitioned the campsite in Chaco Canyon, an ancient city connecting all the way to Maya civilizations that once housed thousands of people and was filled with everything from turquoise to pet macaws and breath-taking architecture: intricately stacked thin stones perfectly straight, and angled



Daphne Fleming playing on the soft sandstone rocks at Abiquiu Reservoir.

walls, and doorways that led to room after room, each with its own history, its own stories. The Chaco Canyon visitor center showed us how much archeologists were able to gather information from the nests of pack rats (which made me wonder what future people will find under our home!).

We took a trip over to the Bisti Badlands, which felt like traveling to a scene out of a Dr. Seuss book. There were bubbly rocks, drooping rocks, red rock, and blue rocks! The kids ran around and climbed, jumped and explored. Petrified wood was sprinkled across the desert horizon.

Bandelier is another favorite camping spot. "I helped make the trails there. There are over 70 miles of trails!" A coach from Taos at my kid's hockey game told me. 70 miles! Growing up in Los Alamos, I have probably done the lower loop (about one mile) about 70 times and I never tire of it. This trail winds through ruins and up the side of a canyon along caveates. You can climb in them and imagine what life was like making pottery and obsidian arrows, cultivating corn and beans, and hunting deer.

I didn't make it to Carlsbad Caverns until my thirties. Once a mine for the high nitrate fertilizer guano (bat poop), it is just magical. My kids ran through the mile-long trail, and we were in awe at the beauty, the perfect underground temperature, and the lit-up trails through stalactites and stalagmites.



Donna Fleming of Los Alamos hiking in the Jemez wilderness.

Red River is my "plush" destination. We have spent many nights in the Enchanted Forest yurts, and depending on the season, we've hiked, biked, skied, and snowshoed the one-mile trek to stay in the yurt. Fall in Red River is breathtaking. You can see yellow aspens contrast with evergreens, and peekaboo glimpses of a snow-capped Wheeler Peak are sights to be seen. We've spent time at all the forest service campsites as well Columbine, Elephant Rock, and Fawn Lakes. No matter where we camp, we always visit Steam Coffee for a latte and the Candy Crate for maple fudge. Hey, who says you can't live a little while camping?

The Organ Mountains are in southern New Mexico, and I first saw them when I went to college in Las Cruces. Growing up at the southern tip of the Rocky Mountains, I remember being nothing short of impressed by the entirely different type of mountain range. The pokey, majestic mountains



Donna Fleming exploring Chaco Canyon.

east of the town are perfectly named, because the pointed spires resemble that of a pipe organ. The peaks turn a golden purple when the sun bids goodbye. Every so often, a yellow moon rises over them, declaring himself conductor of the congregation of neighborhoods that make up the town of Las Cruces.

On a whim, my friend Erin and I decided we should hike to the top of the mountains and camp for the night. We tied sleeping bags to our school backpacks, hiked straight up, and slept at the top. We lost the trail on our descent and found ourselves cursing while scaling down the rocky spires. At one point, Erin ended up throwing her sleeping bag off a cliff after it swung like a pendulum and almost killed her. The spiky rocks scraped us, the sea of cacti bit us. We came back to my car exhausted and scraped, and I was late to my 10 a.m. shift as a pizza delivery girl.

But for a moment, we felt like the conductors of the Organ Mountains.

Camping adventures forge magical memories. It's enjoying the spectacular fiery glow of the sun bidding goodbye and being blanketed by the stars. It's the feeling our struggles slip away while . snuggling with those we love. It's the wonders around us that heal us as we breathe in a new place that seems to be on top of the world.

So yeah, those are a few reasons to camp. But mostly to sit around and drink beer.

Brenda Fleming is the mother of three kids and loves all things New Mexico, including hiking, mountain biking, snowboarding, and camping. She is author/illustrator of the highly rated- Short Front Legs: Observations of the Human Species from a Tired Mother (for sale locally at Indigo Baby and Collected Works) and is the illustrator of the popular children's book Goodnight, Los Alamos that won Best Picture Book from the Arizona and New Mexico book awards. Brenda also sells New Mexico themed T-shirts and wildlife/landscape stickers at REI, PEEC Nature Center, and Valles Caldera Gift Shop.

SANTA FE Girls' SCHOOL



APPLY NOW
Grades 6, 7, 8

Admissions
Open House
March 10th

35%
of students receive
financial aid

RSVP: www.santafegirlsschool.org



JF Mazur Studio courtesy photo.

NATURE



A high-desert native wildlife zoo and fun festivals

Steingass Wildlife West Nature Park sign designed and created by volunteers.

KAREN LEACH

Come meet Koshari, one of the largest black bears in the state, get eye to eye with 7-year-old cougar sisters True and Zia, observe four adorable tree-climbing gray foxes, and visit 20 other species of native wildlife and raptors who call Wildlife West Nature Park their home. There are very few places where you can get an up-close experience with these animals as well as elk, bobcats, javelina, crested caracaras, and all the friendly wildlife waiting to meet you.

Surrounded by wildflowers and trees native to this beautiful high desert region, Wildlife West is one of the premier nature parks in the southwest. It's located in Edgewood, about 25 minutes east of Albuquerque and just a short detour off I-40 and historic Route 66. The 122-acre wildlife refuge and enhanced zoo is open to the public year-round. Its western character is fun for the entire family.

All the lucky animals in the park have been rescued and could not otherwise survive in the wild. They all have names, and their stories and information are displayed at each habitat. Deshka, a magnificent bald eagle, was found 28 years ago along the Deshka River in Alaska with a broken left wing. Eagles can live up to 50 years in captivity. Bob the bobcat

was bottle fed for weeks before his eyes were open, and Foxie the red fox was an illegal pet living in an apartment and then released out into the complex to fend for herself. These and the other non-releasable wildlife and raptors now have a permanent and happy home at Wildlife West. They serve as ambassadors, providing an excellent opportunity to educate the public and especially kids about the importance of coexisting with wildlife and the need for habitat protection.

Wildlife West, a nonprofit organization, has been in the community for more than 30 years and is managed through volunteer support. Volunteers are the true spirit of the park. Some have volunteered for 15 to 27 years, and all have their own unique stories. The volunteer feeders come everyday rain or shine and have a very special connection to each rescued animal. They spend many loving hours with the animals, providing enrichment opportunities that keep their animal friends happy and healthy. Park volunteers also include habitat construction workers, gift shop greeters, landscapers, marketing experts, grant writers, and social media experts.

In addition to the furry and feathered friends at Wildlife West,



Cougar Zia's front paw was caught in a wire and was rescued and brought to Wildlife West at a young age.

the park hosts a calendar of fun and educational events that attract thousands of visitors, including the Annual New Mexico Renaissance Celtic Festival, Wild West Frontier Festival, Pirate and Viking Summer Bash, art and fiber festivals, raptor presentations, a variety of western music shows, and more. All events take place at the park's large all-weather amphitheater or in the restored western barn. Kids love to explore the hands-on imagination trail with elk and deer antlers, examples of wildlife prints and climbing structures. Thousands of school aged children visit the park on field trips inspiring them at a young age to cultivate life-long values and understanding about wildlife and the world around them.



Bald eagle Deshka rescued on the Deshka River in Alaska with a broken wing.

Winter, summer, spring, or fall, Wildlife West Nature Park changes with the seasons, but remains beautiful year-round with picnic areas, and a covered amphitheater available for family events and corporate parties. More information about Wildlife West Nature Park is available at wildlifewest.org.



Bob the Bobcat.

Karen Leach has been a Wildlife West Nature Park volunteer for the past 18 years.

Learn. Discover. Play.
Join us for week of outdoor science, nature investigation, and play!
Day camps for ages 5-12 throughout June & July.

Online registration opens March 1st at 9am. For more details, summer schedules, and scholarships, visit: randalldavey.audubon.org/camp


Audubon | Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary



DOG TRAINING ELITE

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ACTIVITIES TRAINING + MORE!

DogTrainingElite.com
newmexico@dogtrainingelite.com
505.207.0383

THE LAST

DOG TRAINER

YOU'LL EVER NEED



Calendar of Events

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Dawn 'til Dusk Day All Day► Free First Sundays All Day► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Parenting in the Screen Age 12 - 1 PM► Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM► Young Creators Project 3:30 - 5:30 PM► Paws and Pages 4:30 - 5:30 PM► Birth Talk Los Alamos 6:30 - 8:30 PM	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM► Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM► Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM► Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM► Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM► Toddler Tunes 10:30 - 11 AM► Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM► Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM► Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Family Mornings at Folk Art 11 AM - 1 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AMRAMADAN BEGINS	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM► Elements of Art: Storytime 10 - 11 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM► Grandparents Raising Grandchildren 6 - 7 PM► Trans + Nonbinary Family Support Group 6:25 - 7:30 PM	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM► Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM► Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM► Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM► Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM► Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► Adventures in STEM 1:30 - 2:30 PM► What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM► Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM► Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM► Young Creators Project 3:30 - 5:30 PM► Paws and Pages 4:30 - 5:30 PM	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM► Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM► Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM► Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM► Toddler Craft Time 10 - 11 AM► Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM► Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM► Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM► Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM <div><div>31</div><div>EASTER SUNDAY</div></div>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM► Elements of Art: Storytime 10 - 11 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM► Paws and Pages 4:30 - 5:30 PM <div><div>HOLI</div></div>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM► Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM► Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none">► Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PM► Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM► Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM► Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM► Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM► Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM► Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM► Animal Encounters 11:30 AM► What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM► Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM► Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM

LEGEND

► RECURRING EVENT

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUPPORT & COMMUNITY

SPORTS & MOVEMENT

VISUAL ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS

EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT

NATURE

ENTERTAINMENT



Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt Every Day 8 AM - 8 PMLiteracy Through Drama with Mesa Arts Center 10 - 10:30 AMBilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AMAnimal Encounters Every Day Except Mondays 11:30 AMFine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PMFirst Friday Fractals 8 - 9 PMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt Every Day 11 AM - 11 PM	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMParent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AMStorytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AMBaby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMRead to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PMMeet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PMScience Saturdays 2 - 4 PM
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMStorytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AMSeeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AMStorytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMYoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMCircle of Security 12 - 1 PMFun With Firefighters 1 - 2 PMThursdays are Yours 4 - 7PMPajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMBilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMFine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMParent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AMStorytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AMBelisama Irish Dancers 10:30 - 11 AM & 11:30 - 12 PMBaby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMRead to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PMMeet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PMArtist Talk: Arturo Herrera and Erin Shirreff 2 - 3 PMScience Saturdays 2 - 4 PMSaturday Afternoon Movie: <i>Lady and the Tramp</i> 2 - 4 PMLos Alamos Community Winds 8 - 9 PM
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMStorytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AMSeeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AMStorytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMYoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMCircle of Security 12 - 1 PMHands-On Art Making with Georgia O' Keeffe Museum 3:30 - 5 PMThursdays are Yours 4 - 7PMAnime Club 5:30 - 7:30 PMPajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMBilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMFine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMDinosaur World Live 7:30 - 9:30 PM	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMParent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AMStorytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AMBaby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMRead to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PMMeet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PMScience Saturdays 2 - 4 PM
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMAutism Support Group 10 - 11 AMStorytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AMSeeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AMStorytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMYoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMHands-On Art Making with Georgia O' Keeffe Museum 3:30 - 5 PMThursdays are Yours 4 - 7PMPajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMBilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMFine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMParent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AMCommunity Day at the Garden 10 AM - 4 PMStorytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AMBaby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMRead to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PMMeet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PMScience Saturdays 2 - 4 PM
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMStorytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AMSeeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AMStorytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMYoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMHands-On Art Making with Georgia O' Keeffe Museum 3:30 - 5 PMThursdays are Yours 4 - 7PMPajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMBilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMFine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMGOOD FRIDAY	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt 8 AM - 8 PMMusic and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AMParent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AMStorytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AMQueen Bee Sing-along 10:30 - 11:15 AMBaby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AMPuzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PMAnimal Encounters 11:30 AMRead to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PMMeet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PMScience Saturdays 2 - 4 PM

Calendar of Events

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Parenting in the Screen Age 12 - 1 PM▶ Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM▶ Young Creators Project 3:30 - 5:30 PM▶ Paws and Pages 4:30 - 5:30 PM▶ Birth Talk Los Alamos 6:30 - 8:30 PM	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM▶ Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt Every Day 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters Every Day Except Mondays 11:30 AM▶ After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM▶ Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Toddler Tunes 10:30 - 11 AM▶ Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM▶ Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM▶ Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Dawn 'til Dusk Day All Day▶ Free First Sundays All Day▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM▶ Elements of Art: Storytime 10 - 11 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Parenting in the Screen Age 12 - 1 PM▶ Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM▶ Grandparents Raising Grandchildren 6 - 7 PM▶ Trans + Nonbinary Family Support Group 6:25 - 7:30 PM	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM▶ Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PMEID AL-FITR	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM▶ Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Adventures in STEM 1:30 - 2:30 PM▶ What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM▶ Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM▶ Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Family Mornings at Folk Art 11 AM - 1 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM▶ Elements of Art: Storytime 10 - 11 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Parenting in the Screen Age 12 - 1 PM▶ Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM▶ Young Creators Project 3:30 - 5:30 PM▶ Paws and Pages 4:30 - 5:30 PMTAX DAY	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM▶ Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM▶ Toddler Craft Time 10 - 11 AM▶ Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM▶ Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM▶ Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM▶ Elements of Art: Storytime 10 - 11 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM▶ Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM▶ Storytime at White Rock Branch Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ What's Up Wednesday 1:30 - 3 PM▶ Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 1:30 - 3:30 PM▶ Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM▶ Queen Bee Sing-along with Sarah Jane 10:30 - 11:15 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM▶ Young Creators Project 3:30 - 5:30 PM▶ Paws and Pages 4:30 - 5:30 PM	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Chit-Chat Playtime 9:30 - 10:30 AM▶ Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Southside Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ After School Art at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM	

LEGEND

▶ RECURRING EVENT



SPECIAL EVENTS

SUPPORT & COMMUNITY

SPORTS & MOVEMENT

VISUAL ARTS



PERFORMING ARTS

EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT

NATURE

ENTERTAINMENT

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS CALENDAR IS
BROUGHT TO NORTHERN NEW MEXICO BY:

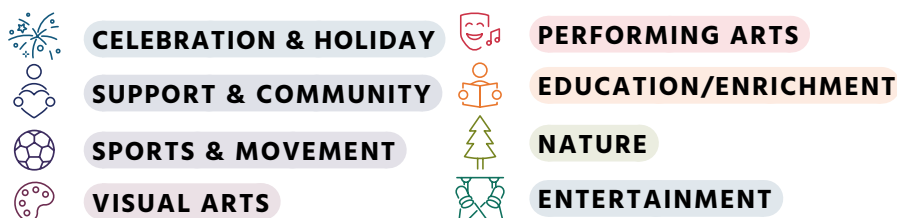


**DOG
TRAINING
ELITE**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>4</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Storytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AM▶ Seeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Yoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Fun With Firefighters 1 - 2 PM▶ Thursdays are Yours 4 - 7PM▶ Pajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM</div>	<div>5</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Literacy Through Drama with Mesa Arts Center 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Fine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PM▶ First Friday Fractals 8 - 9 PM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM</div>	<div>6</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Parent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Storytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Baby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Read to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM▶ Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM▶ Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM</div>
<div>11</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Storytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AM▶ Seeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Yoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Hands-On Art Making with Georgia O' Keeffe Museum 3:30 - 5 PM▶ Thursdays are Yours 4 - 7PM▶ Anime Club 5:30 - 7:30 PM▶ Pajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM</div>	<div>12</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Fine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM</div>	<div>13</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Parent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Storytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Baby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Read to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM▶ Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM▶ Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM</div>
<div>18</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Autism Support Group 10 - 11 AM▶ Storytime at The Zone at Mesa Public Library 10:30 - 11 AM▶ Seeds and Sprouts Backyard Program 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Yoga and Movement for Kids 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Hands-On Art Making with Georgia O' Keeffe Museum 3:30 - 5 PM▶ Thursdays are Yours 4 - 7PM▶ Pajama Storytime at Southside Library 6:30 - 7:30 PM</div>	<div>19</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Fine Art Fridays 2 - 4 PM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM</div>	<div>20</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM▶ Parent and Tot Creative Movement at the Main Library 10 - 10:30 AM▶ Storytime at Mesa Public Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM▶ Baby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM▶ Puzzling Adventures Scavenger Hunt 11 AM - 11 PM▶ Animal Encounters 11:30 AM▶ Read to a Pup! At the Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM▶ Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM▶ Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM</div>
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Calendar of Events

LEGEND



EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

LITERACY THROUGH DRAMA WITH MESA ARTS CENTER

MARCH 1 | 10 - 10:30 AM
Bring picture books to life by going on an imaginative adventure in this drama focused storytime. Children will deepen early literacy skills as they explore magical worlds, problem-solve, and become characters in the story. Discover a spectacular find in this digging adventure in *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett.

NATURE

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE GARDEN

MARCH 23 | 10 AM - 4 PM
Get outside with free admission and a free public garden tour starting at 1 p.m. at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

ENTERTAINMENT

LADY AND THE TRAMP SATURDAY AFTERNOON MOVIE

MARCH 9 | 2 - 4 PM
Bring your family and friends and come watch *Lady and the Tramp* with us at Main Library.

DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE AT POPEJOY HALL

MARCH 15 | 7:30 - 9:30 PM
Dare to experience the dangers and delights of dinosaurs in this interactive show for all ages. Discover a prehistoric world of astonishing, remarkably life-like creatures children will love, including Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Triceratops, Giraffatitan, Microraptor, and Segnosaurus. This entertaining and educational performance packs a roaring good time in a 50-minute family adventure.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CELEBRATION & HOLIDAY

BELISAMA IRISH DANCERS

MARCH 9 | 10:30 - 11 AM, 11:30 - 12 PM

Santa Fe's own Belisama Irish Dancers will perform traditional Irish step dancing in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day. All ages.

SUPPORT & COMMUNITY

PARENTING IN THE SCREEN AGE: A GUIDE FOR CALM CONVERSATIONS

MARCH 4 | 12 - 1 PM

In this class, parents and caregivers of youths ages 10+ will learn a roadmap for productive conversations around screen time, ways to engage your child in creating boundaries around mass media and social media, and tools to set screen time limits that include your teen's voice and limit sneaking behavior and arguing. This class is held virtually with Brandi Seekings, LMSW. Register at lafsn.org.

NM MISSION OF MERCY DENTAL SERVICES

APRIL 26 & 27 | 5:15 AM - 3 PM

Join us at the Santa Fe Convention Center for our annual NM Mission of Mercy (NM MOM). A two-day large-scale dental clinic where dental

treatment is provided at no cost to individuals who cannot access and/or afford dental care. This event is completely volunteer driven and is possible because of the generous support of our sponsors and volunteers.

VISUAL ARTS

ARTIST TALK: ARTURO HERRERA AND ERIN SHIRREFF

MARCH 9 | 2 - 3 PM

In honor of the opening of Carmen Herrera's *I Am Nobody! Who Are You?*, Arturo Herrera's *You Are Here*, and Erin Shirreff's *Folded Stone*, please join us for a panel discussion with Arturo Herrera, Erin Shirreff, and a Carmen Herrera scholar, moderated by SITE Santa Fe's executive director Louis Grachos.

FAMILY MORNINGS AT INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART MUSEUM

MARCH 10 | 11 AM - 1 PM

Let's make music: our hands-on art activity will be making recycled guitars and bottle-cap shakers.

FAMILY MORNINGS AT INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART MUSEUM

MARCH 14 | 11 AM - 1 PM

Earth Day for all. Our hands-on art making will be working with natural dyes.



Watercolor Cat by Mia - Art School Santa Fe courtesy photo.

► RECURRING ACTIVITIES



SUPPORT & COMMUNITY

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

10 - 11 AM

All parents and caregivers raising children with an Autism diagnosis are welcome. Contact facilitator with questions or to sign up: abbie.nelson@lccs-nm.org. Meets via Zoom.

DATES: Third Thursdays

BABY AND TODDLER PLAY HOUR AT MAIN LIBRARY

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Free, unstructured play where children can explore and interact with other children and new educational toys. Learn and make social connections together with your toddler.

DATES: Every Saturday

BABYTIME IN LOS ALAMOS

10:15 - 11 AM

Babytime is best for ages 0 to 2 and their caregivers at Mesa Public Library. Library staff shares songs, bounces, and rhymes to help babies develop early literacy skills. The program might include scarves, bells, or rattles. It includes focused play and free play. Free admission.

DATES: Every Tuesday

BIRTH TALK LOS ALAMOS

6:30 - 8:30 PM

A free community talk circle for pregnant women and mothers. Birth Talk Los Alamos is a safe place to learn about options in pregnancy and childbirth. Hosted virtually.

DATES: First Mondays

CHIT-CHAT PLAYTIME

9:30 - 10:0 AM

A casual meet-up for kiddos and caregivers at Family Strengths

Network in Los Alamos.

Adults can chat and relax as kids play with all of Family Strength Network's toys and the occasional play experiences.

DATES: Every Tuesday

DAWN 'TIL DUSK DAY SUNRISE TO SUNSET

Los Luceros Historic Site will extend its hours on the first Sunday of each month. During this time, entrance into Los Luceros is free for New Mexico residents and includes access to the site's visitor center, historic buildings, trails, and picnic areas.

DATES: First Sundays

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

6 - 7 PM

This kinship care group meets via zoom to discuss the many challenges associated with kinship. Connect with others who are navigating the challenges of raising a grandchild and learn about resources that can help.

Although this group is geared to grandparents, any family that finds themselves in the world of kinship care is welcome.

Registration required. lafsn.org

DATES: Second Mondays

TEEN LOUNGE AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

1:30 - 3:30 PM

A safe space for teens to decompress after school. La Farge Library has art supplies, homework tables, laptops and Wi-Fi, board games, tea and snacks.

DATES: Every Wednesday

TRANS + NONBINARY FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

6:25 - 7:30 PM

A space to connect with others who are parents, caregivers, or family members of someone who is trans, genderqueer, or gender nonconforming. Meets at the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos.

DATES: Second Mondays

Childcare you can trust like family

Discover the joys of hosting an au pair

What is an au pair?

An au pair is an educated young person from abroad who lives with you in your home for up to two years, cares for your children and becomes a special part of your family. Welcoming an au pair is a chance to bring a piece of the world into your home and heart—and to breathe new life into your family's routine.

Flexibility

An au pair can provide up to 45 hours per week of childcare on a schedule you decide, including early morning, evening and weekend coverage.

Trust

Because an au pair lives in your home, mutual trust develops more quickly than with a daycare provider or nanny.

Culture

Au pairs come from many countries all over the world and can share their language and culture with your family, fostering a sense of curiosity and global perspective.



Scan for more
information!



CULTURAL
CARE
AU PAIR

SPORTS & MOVEMENT

PARENT AND TOT CREATIVE MOVEMENT AT MAIN LIBRARY

10 - 11 AM

Using fun music and stories, early preschool-age children can exercise their young bodies and minds in a relaxed and joyful environment with their special adult

DATES: Every Friday

YOGA AND MOVEMENT FOR KIDS

10:30 - 11:30 AM

A yoga class designed specifically with young children in mind. Joyful movement and kinesthetic creativity are explored. Yoga mats are provided if needed. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Recommended for preschool and early school-age children.

DATES: Every Thursday

VISUAL ARTS

FINE ART FRIDAYS

2 - 4 PM

A weekly exploration into the arts with special guests and hands-on activities.

DATES: Every Friday

AFTER-SCHOOL ART AT MAIN LIBRARY

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Practice your creative skills at the library with themed art sessions. Art is beneficial for building creative problem-solving, out-of-the-box thinking, expressiveness, and a rich imagination.

DATES: Every Tuesday

ELEMENTS OF ART: STORYTIME

10 - 11 AM

Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to the New Mexico Museum of Art Library to learn about a basic element of art through story, song, and craft. This program will introduce children to concepts such as color, line, and form. This is a free program.

DATES: Every other Sunday (3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/14, 4/28)

FREE FIRST SUNDAYS

ALL DAY

Admission is free on the first Sunday of every month to New

Mexico residents with ID to the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, the Museum of International Folk Art, the New Mexico History Museum, and the New Mexico Museum of Art.

DATES: First Sundays

HANDS-ON ART MAKING WITH THE GEORGIA O'KEEFFE MUSEUM

3:30 - 5 PM

Make art with the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum at the Santa Fe Public Library LaFarge Branch.

DATES:

Thursdays in March, Fridays in April 3/14, 3/21/, 3/28, 4/12, 4/29, 4/26

MONDAY FUNDAY: NM APPRECIATION DISCOUNT AT MEOW WOLF

3 - 8 PM

Make the first day of the workweek a little less Monday and a lot more Funday with Meow Wolf's weekly New Mexico 50% off appreciation discount!

DATES: Every Monday

TODDLER CRAFT TIME

10 - 11 AM

Family Strength Network holds a monthly toddler crafts workshop. It includes hands-on activities which are a pleasure for grown-ups and kids alike.

DATES: Third Wednesdays

PERFORMING ARTS

YOUNG CREATORS PROJECT

3:30 - 5:30 PM

LiveArts Santa Fe Presents the Young Creators Project for ages 9 to 16. Every other Monday at Southside Branch Library, kids and teens will explore improvisation, creative writing and performance through a variety of games and structured exercises to learn improvisation skills, create character monologues, and write short plays.

DATES: Every other Monday (3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29)

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT IN LOS ALAMOS

9:30 - 10 AM

Musical fun for children ages 0 to 6 and their caregivers. Music and Movement (M&M) is great for brain and body development. M&M uses songs, scarves, bells, rhythm sticks, and more



JF Mazur Studio courtesy photo.

to count, clap, sing, jump, and wiggle together.

DATES: Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays at Mesa Public Library, Wednesdays at White Rock Library

KIDS SING-ALONG WITH SARAH JANE

9:30 - 10 AM

Join us every Monday for joyful music and games with Sarah-Jane at Queen Bee Music Association.

DATES: Every Monday

KIDS SING-ALONG WITH SARAH JANE

9:30 - 10 AM

Join us for joyful music and games with Sarah-Jane at the Railyard Park.

DATES: Every Wednesday

KIDS SING-ALONG WITH SARAH JANE

9:30 - 10 AM

Join us for joyful music and games with Sarah-Jane at Randall Davey Audubon Center.

DATES: Last Saturdays

TODDLER TUNES

10:30 - 11 AM

Children and parents sing and dance together while Lauren Marcus shares simple ways to engage children in music and



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SPRING BREAK CAMP

MARCH 25-29 + 9-3:30
AGES 7-12 \$400
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

WEE KIDS CAMP

JUNE 17-21 + 9-12:30PM
AGES 4-7 \$340

TEEN CAMP

JUNE 17-28 + 1:30-5PM
\$520

SUMMER CAMP

JULY 1-12 + 9-3:30PM
AGE 7-12 \$700
ALL LEVELS

CONTINUING CAMP

JULY 15-26 + 9-3:30PM
AGES 8-13 \$700
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

505-992-2588 | wisefoolnewmexico.org

movement at Family Strength Network in Los Alamos.

DATES: First Wednesdays

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

ADVENTURES IN STEM

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Kid friendly STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities hosted by STEAM Lab at the Family Strengths Network in Los Alamos. All ages welcome.

DATES: Second Wednesdays and Second Saturdays

BILINGUAL BOOKS AND BABIES AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

10 - 10:30 AM

The power of music and song are used as an introduction to language in this program for babies and toddlers. Exposure to new and different language sounds in early childhood can help children with language acquisition skills as they grow. This program is for babies and toddlers.

DATES: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23.

BILINGUAL BOOKS AND BABIES AT MAIN LIBRARY

10 - 11 AM

The power of music and song is used as an introduction to language in this program for babies and toddlers. Exposure to new and different language sounds in early childhood can help children with language acquisition skills as they grow.
DATES: Every Wednesday

BILINGUAL BOOKS AND BABIES AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

10 - 10:30 AM

The power of music and song are used as an introduction to language in this program for babies and toddlers. Exposure to new and different language sounds in early childhood can help children with language acquisition skills as they grow.
DATES: Every Other Saturday (3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 4/27)

FUN WITH FIREFIGHTERS

1 - 2 PM

Join the Santa Fe Fire Department for story time at the Santa Fe Children's Museum and then go outside to visit their

fire truck. Free with admission to the museum.

DATES: First Thursdays

PAJAMA STORYTIME AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

6:30 - 7:30 PM

A social storytime where parents can receive parenting information and chat with other parents. This program is for preschool-age children and their adults. A meal is provided on the first Thursday of the month

DATES: Every Thursday

READ TO A PUP! AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Children can practice their reading skills by sharing a story with a furry friend. A local therapy dog will be here at the library eagerly waiting! This program is for early school-age children.

DATES: Every Saturday

SCIENCE SATURDAYS

2 - 4 PM

Scientists and STEM instructors visit the Santa Fe Children's Museum to conduct experiments, explorations, and demonstrations. Free with admission. Presented in the Woods Family Outdoor Classroom.

DATES: Every Saturday



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- ✓ Well Child Exams
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Santa Fe Family Health Center
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505-989-4500

Scan to Schedule!

PMSNM.ORG

STORYTIME AND CRAFT AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Created with early childhood teaching techniques, this story hour and craft provide social, physical, and cognitive skill practice for kindergarten readiness. This program is for preschool-age children.

DATES: Every Wednesday

STORYTIME AND CRAFT AT MAIN LIBRARY

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Created with early childhood teaching techniques, this story hour and craft provide social, physical, and cognitive skill practice for kindergarten readiness. This program is for preschool-age children.

DATES: Every Thursday

STORYTIME AND CRAFT AT SOUTHSIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Created with early childhood teaching techniques, this story hour and craft provide social, physical, and cognitive skill practice for kindergarten

readiness. This program is for preschool-age children.

DATES: Every Thursday

TODDLER TIME AT MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY

10 - 10:30 AM

Toddler time incorporates stories, music, and movement into an engaging storytime for children. This program is for ages 16 to 36 months.

DATES: Every Thursday

STORYTIME AT WHITE ROCK BRANCH LIBRARY

10:15 - 10:45 AM

Children ages 3 to 5 years old are invited to attend storytime at White Rock Library. Storytime is meant to teach and affirm early literacy concepts, songs, and fun with kids who can listen to a few books and are starting to put the world together in story form.

Babies and older siblings are welcome, but caregivers should be aware of the program's focus.

DATES: Every Wednesday

THURSDAYS ARE YOURS

4 - 7 PM

Extended hours and free admission for children under the age of 17 at the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

DATES: Every Thursday

WEE WEDNESDAYS

10:30 - 11:30 PM

Santa Fe Children's Museum offers storytime for toddlers and special exploration and activities.

DATES: Every Wednesday

WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAY

1:30 - 3 PM

Activities for elementary-age kids weekly. It might be Legos, an art project, board games, physical games, a special guest, or something else. Best for children 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 and under must have a caregiver with them.

DATES: Every Wednesday

YOUTH CHESS AT MAIN LIBRARY

5:45 - 7:45 PM

Youth chess is a weekly chance for school-age youth to continue to improve their critical thinking skills through the game of chess. While playing with other youth, new techniques, strategies, and tricks are introduced. This program is for youth of all ages who know the basic elements of chess and can play without aid.

DATES: Every Wednesday



NATURE

FIRST FRIDAY FRACTALS

8 - 9 PM, 9 - 10 PM

First Friday Fractals is the spectacular, award-winning full-dome planetarium show that takes viewers on a tour of the fractals in nature and zooms through infinitely complex mathematical fractals. Featuring



Santa Fe School of Music

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July 8-12 & July 15-19, 2024

Mon-Fri 9am - 4pm

Classes are led by Lee Harvey and various professional musicians and educators who will help students develop their skills and passion for music in a beautiful and joyful environment. We offer three levels of string orchestra and one all-level wind ensemble for young musicians who play violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, and trumpet.



For details and to register:
santafeschoolofmusic.org

original music, the show is both educational and highly entertaining, and suitable for audiences age 3 and up.

DATES: First Fridays

MEET CORNELIUS THE SNAKE

1 - 2 PM

Come say hello to beloved corn snake Cornelius and watch him eat his weekly dinner at the Santa Fe Children's Museum. Please be aware that Cornelius will not be able to come out when he is shedding or not feeling well.

DATES: Every Thursday

NATURE PLAYTIME

10 - 11 AM

Start the week off by playing outside at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. An opportunity for toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers to explore the nature center and explore the natural world. Each playtime features outdoor play, sensory exploration, and activities focused on a theme in nature. Dress for the weather, we will be outside year-round. Admission is free.

DATES: Every Monday

SEEDS AND SPROUTS BACKYARD PROGRAM

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Hands-on gardening and nature-themed craft projects in the Earthworks Garden (weather permitting) at the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

DATES: Every Thursday



ENTERTAINMENT

ANIME CLUB

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Anime Club is for anyone in grades 7 to 12. This chill program provides snacks and a comfortable place with friendly people to watch two hours of anime at the Zone at the Mesa Public Library. Anime may be rated TV-14/PG 13. Art and freebies.

DATES: Second Thursdays

PUZZLING ADVENTURES SCAVENGER HUNT SANTA FE

11 AM - 11 PM

Puzzling Adventures are a cross between a scavenger hunt, an adventure race, and an informative self-guided tour.

DATES: Every day

RANDOM FANDOM

6 - 7 PM

Hang out time for youths in grades 7 to 12 to make stuff, play games, eat, and talk. Held at the Zone at Mesa Public Library.

DATES: Fourth Thursdays

SANTA FE SCAVENGER HUNT WALKING TOUR & GAME

8 AM - 8 PM

Santa Fe Scavenger Hunt Walking Tour & Game is happening daily at Historic Santa Fe.

DATES: Every day in March



JF Mazur Studio courtesy photo.

EXPLORE & CREATE THIS SPRING!



Immerse yourself in our
weekly engaging programs,
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Open Wednesday – Sunday



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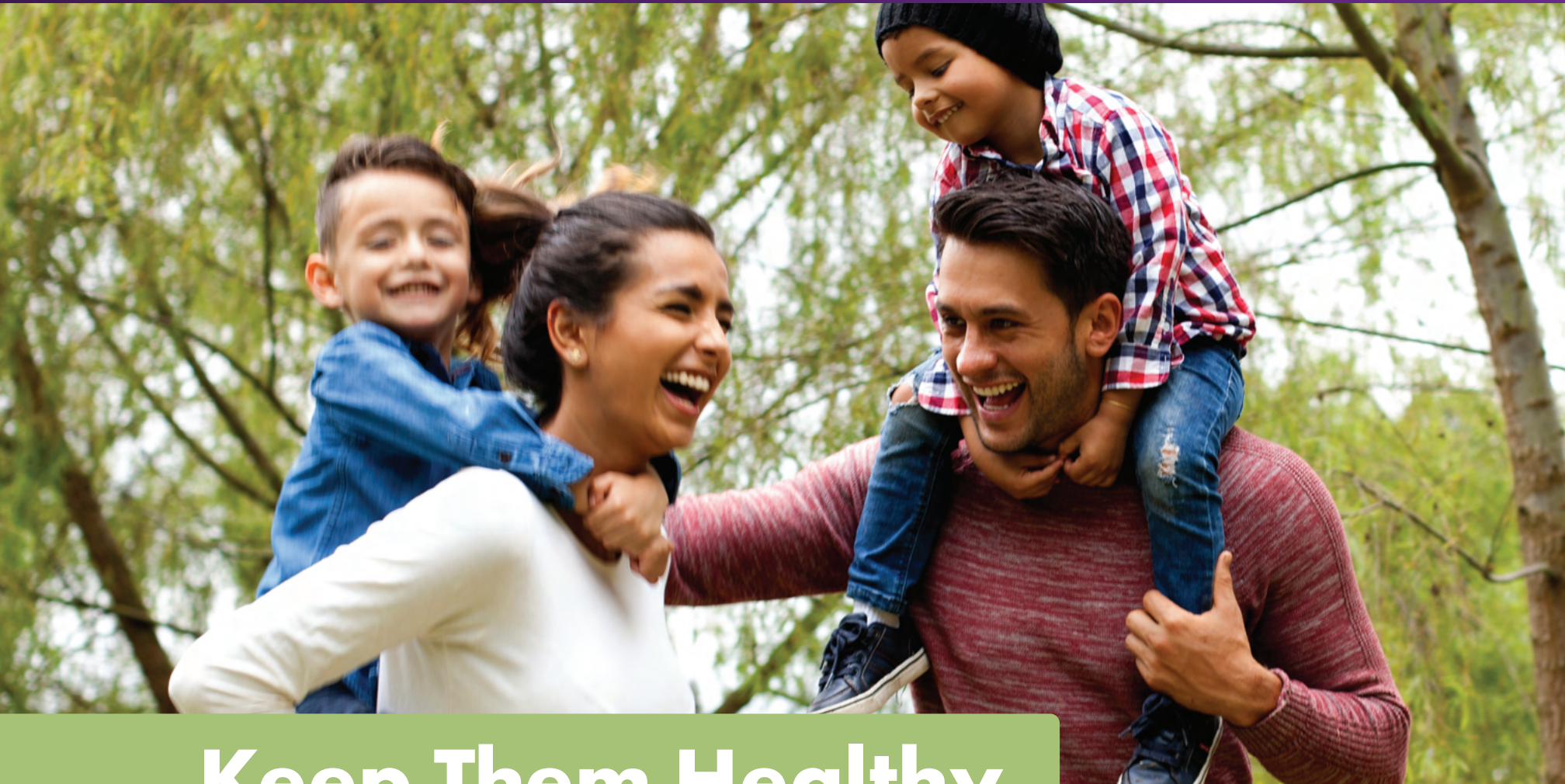
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Santa Fe, NM 87505

Entrada Contenta Health Center

Offering Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and Urgent Care
5501 Herrera Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Family Medicine Center

Offering Family Medicine for
newborns, children, adults and seniors
2025 Galisteo St.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Pojoaque Primary Care

Offering Family Medicine for
newborns, children, adults and seniors
5 Petroglyph Circle, Suite A
Pojoaque, NM 87506

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