

Sandia Mountain Natural History Center



School Year 2007-2008

Dear Principal,

Our new signs are up and we are looking good! We have a terrific standards based, award winning program to offer your students and teachers, and we look forward to serving you again this year up in the beautiful Sandia Mountains.

Your fifth grade students have been scheduled to visit SMNHC for the Ecology Field Program on

We have a wheelchair accessible trail and restrooms, allowing all students to participate in a full range of experiences at the SMNHC. *If your school is sending students who use wheelchairs to our program, please have their teachers call us as soon as possible as it effects our staffing. Likewise, if the student(s) will be not able to come, please advise us.* Also, please let us know if you have students with other special needs or medical concerns that we need to accommodate i.e. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or bee-sting allergies, visual or hearing impairments etc., especially if it will affect their ability to hike.

If your school has any *fourth/fifth combination* classes, please send the *fifth grade students only.*

For *safety* reasons, please be sure there are *2-5 chaperones* with each group of fifth graders.

Please verify that all of your fifth grade teachers, including special education *teachers*, have *received and read* our orientation packet containing essential information.

SMNHC provides free teacher workshops throughout the year highlighting *Ecosystem Explorations*, a curriculum written by SMNHC and APS staff, which has been shown to significantly enhance the visit to SMNHC. Copies of the curriculum are included in APS science kits. *Ecosystem Explorations* “Treasure Chests” containing materials to implement the curriculum activities in the classroom and schoolyard, are available through the APS Unified Resources Library. The curriculum can also be accessed on line at www.nmnaturalhistory.org/smnhc Please encourage your teachers to attend a workshop, use the curricula, and/or pick up a SMNHC “Treasure Chest.”

Schools will order and pay for their own buses. APS has included money in your school-based budget for this event. Bus reservations should include 4.5 hours for the mountain program plus travel time. In the event of rain or light snow, we will continue the program. The SMNHC is equipped with heated classrooms to provide indoor as well as outdoor learning experiences. However, if harsh weather adversely affects road conditions, we will contact you, cancel your trip, and reschedule your school for another date.

For questions or information, call (505) 281-5259.

Sincerely,

Julie Hall, APS Resource teacher at Sandia Mountain Natural History Center