



Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and APS



Phone: 281-5259

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child's class is scheduled for a one-day visit to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center in Cedar Crest, New Mexico. The Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC) is an APS site and is operated by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. This trip provides students with an outstanding opportunity to discover the natural history of the Sandia Mountains and to learn ecology and geology concepts in the field. Your child's class will be visiting the center on

Students need to be prepared to hike and to learn outside. At between 6,900' and 7,200' elevation, weather at the SMNHC is typically eight to ten degrees cooler than in Albuquerque (about 5,300'). Snow or rain can occur at any time. Although we do have heated indoor classroom space available if the weather is very poor, we spend as much time outside as possible, even if it is raining or snowing lightly. Your child will participate on a 2-hour guided hike that is approximately 2 miles in length. The hiking trail is appropriate for youngsters, but it does contain rocky areas and steep sections. Students should dress sensibly. Conditions at the SMNHC can be muddy, so be forewarned. A clothing and equipment list is provided at the end of this letter.

Students must bring a sack lunch and a drink for the field trip. Please **do not include glass containers nor GUM. Electronic devices**, such as games, cell phones and music players that would likely distract students from the program and could become lost or broken are **prohibited** at the SMNHC.

Clothing Suggestions

- Comfortable shoes for hiking- no slick bottoms, thick inflexible soles, or sandals
- Long pants
- Dress in layers, i.e., short sleeved shirt, long sleeved shirt or sweatshirt and light jacket
- Rain jacket or poncho (a heavy-duty garbage bag will work)
- Sun hat
- Heavy jacket if weather is cold
- Warm hat and gloves if weather is cold
- Plastic grocery or bread bags to wear inside shoes to keep feet dry **in the event of snow or rain**

Additional Items Students Must Bring

- Lunch
- Water bottle or canteen
- Notebook and pencil (spiral notebook works well)
- Sunscreen
- Day pack or backpack to carry jacket, water bottle, & notebook while in the field
- NO GUM

Your attention to preparing your student for this field trip will make the trip an enjoyable learning experience. We look forward to your child's visit to the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center.

Sincerely,
Sandia Mountain Natural History Center Teaching Staff