



Celebration of Our Mountains

**Fall
2025
Program**



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Letter from the President

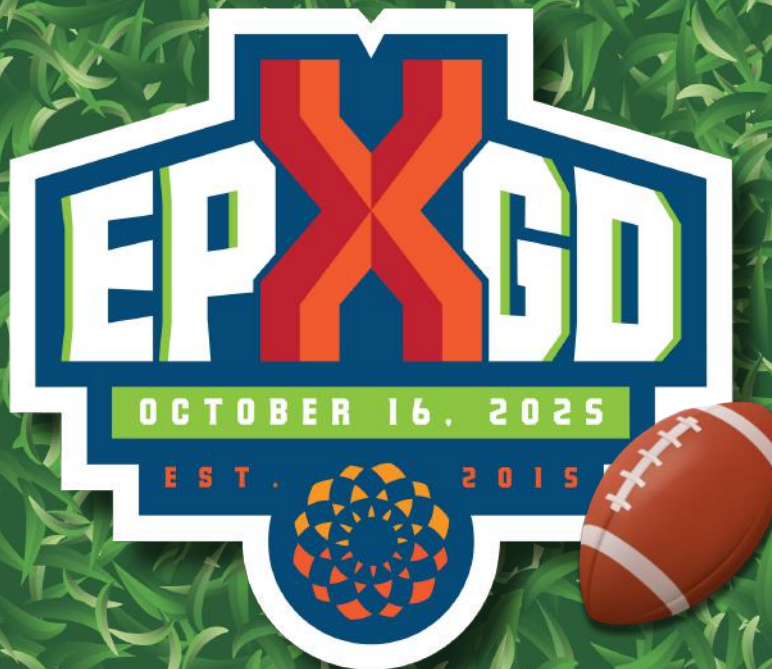
Welcome to the Celebration of Our Mountains Fall Program. As usual, we strive to offer an exciting array of no-cost activities for all ages and skill levels. The 2025 Fall Program spans most of the weekends in October and November, up to Thanksgiving. We kick it all off with a visit to the Guadalupe National Park where we will be hiking the Devils Hall trail with a focus on photography. As usual we include several rock-hounding trips, outdoor yoga, museum visits, and the crowd-favorite, introduction to rock climbing. Some new and exciting new features this round include a collaboration with the UTEP (Department of Earth, Environmental and Resource Sciences) to provide an enhanced version of the El Paso Geology Grand Tour and a combined drone photography demonstration and geo-tour of the Potrillo volcanoes. Please join us and bring a friend on one or more of these events as we celebrate our wonderful environment in and around the hills, mountains and valleys around El Paso and Southern New Mexico.

Lance Robert, Board President

EL PASO GIVING DAY



PASO DEL NORTE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



DONATE TODAY!



EARLY GIVING STARTS NOW

OCTOBER 9 - 15, 2025

Celebration of Our Mountains

Upcoming Events

Fall 2025

OCT
04

Devils Hall, Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Join us for a 4.2 mi hike on rocky scrambles, and a natural rock staircase that leads to a canyon "hallway" with beautiful geological views.

OCT
05

Tonuco Fluorite Mine & Petroglyphs

Dive into ancient petroglyphs with some Native flair and take a thrilling trek to a ghostly barite mine from the early 1900s, where you'll unearth the wild tales of mining history!

OCT
11

Sunrise Yoga & Hike - Hueco Tanks State Park

Roll out your mat and lace up those hiking boots for a one-of-a-kind morning adventure at the breathtaking Hueco Tanks State Park!

BLUE LIZARD YOGA

OCT
12

Kids Discovery: Archaeology Adventure at Keystone Park

Archaeology Camp is your ticket to prehistoric fun, featuring dinosaur track sleuthing, crafting mold fossils, and digging into a real-life excavation adventure!

OCT
18

Women's Geo Hike - Cottonwood Springs Trail

Put on your hiking boots and join us for a fantastic women's trek on the Cottonwood Springs trail at Franklin Mountains State Park!

OCT
18

Who's Running Around the Desert at Night?

Get ready to lace up your hiking boots for a moonlit adventure, where we'll dive into the wild and mysterious nocturnal playground of the desert!



OCT
19

Explore the Oro Grande Mining District

This adventure takes you back in time to see the dramatic clash of ancient marine sediments and magma. Explore limestone from 320 to 300 million years ago and magma from 45 to 41 million years ago, while hunting for stunning minerals like garnet, specular hematite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, chrysocolla, and azurite!

OCT
25

La Luz Pottery & Tularosa Basin Museum

Join us for a trip through the history of our region to include the La Luna pottery factory complex and the Tularosa Basin Museum of History.

OCT
30



October Spooky Social

Join us for our monthly social, wear your favorite geology inspired costume!

Celebration of Our Mountains

Upcoming Events

Fall

2025

NOV

01

Geo Grand Tour I: UTEP Partnership

Buckle up for an epic day of adventure as you cruise through the jaw-dropping geological gems of the El Paso region!



NOV

02

Kilbourne Hole Volcanic Crater

Get ready to rock with the Celebration of Our Mountains crew on an epic field trip to this legendary volcano! It's not just the baby of the El Paso/Juarez volcanic family, but also the cool training ground for Apollo astronauts. Let's go volcano-hopping!

NOV

08

Geo Grand Tour II: UTEP Partnership

Buckle up for an epic day of adventure as you cruise through the jaw-dropping geological gems of the El Paso region!



NOV

09

Pups on the Trail - Lost Dog

A dog-friendly community hike encouraging outdoor activity for both people and pets

NOV

15

El Paso Area Volcanoes & Drone Exploration

Experience the fascinating volcanic landscapes of the Rio Grande Rift Basin.

NOV

15

Sunset Photography Walk at Rio Bosque

Capture the magic of sunset at Rio Bosque Wetlands. Learn from local naturalists about the plants, wildlife, and history of the Bosque while improving your photography skills.

NOV

16

Rock Climbing at Hueco Tanks

Try this beginner-friendly climbing workshop for adults eager to explore rock climbing. Learn climbing techniques, safety essentials, and the geology of Hueco's boulders. Gear is provided!



NOV

22

Geo Grand Tour III: UTEP Partnership

Buckle up for an epic day of adventure as you cruise through the jaw-dropping geological gems of the El Paso region!



NOV

20



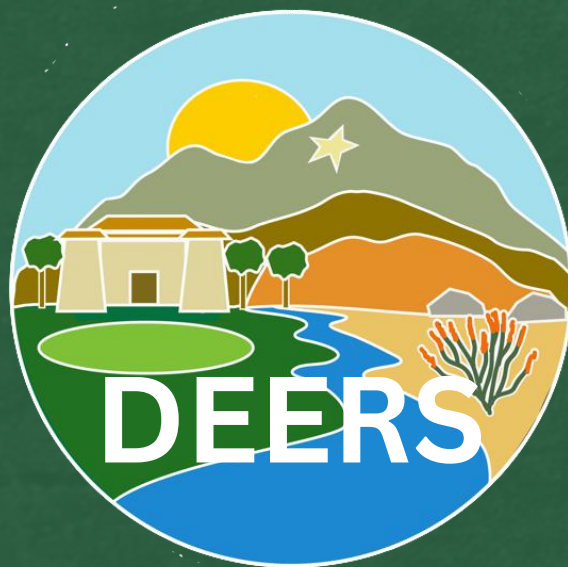
November Monthly Social

Cozy up at our monthly gathering! Mingle with our amazing organization leaders, discuss all the thrilling activities we engage in, and connect with other adventure enthusiasts!

Partners



BLUE LIZARD YOGA



Trip Leaders



Brian Gillis

Board Secretary, Educator



Cristian Trujillo

Photographer



David Alvarado

Educator, Drone Operator



Eddie Zuniga

Geologist, Educator



Hazel Awalt

Board Treasurer, Educator



Dr. Katalina Salas

*Outreach Coordinator, Earth Scientist,
Educator*

Trip Leaders



Lance Robert

Board President, Geologist

Lexie Dominguez Garcia

Educator, Experienced Hiking Guide



Dr. Melissa Ortega

Board Vice President, Educator

Pam Almodovar

Animal Science, Educator



Paul Galvan

Geologist, Educator

Dr. Paul Hyder

Ecologist, Educator, Musician



Trip Leaders



Daniel Miller

BSEE, M.D.



Be a leader for future trips!
Email us to find out more!
com.915mountains@gmail.com

OCT
04

Devils Hall, Guadalupe Mountains National Park



Departure: 7:30 AM – Walmart (12236 Montana Ave, El Paso, TX 79938)

Step into one of the most breathtaking hikes in the Guadalupe Mountains! The Devil's Hall Trail winds through a canyon and leads to a dramatic natural rock "hallway" framed by towering cliffs. Along the way, you'll scramble over rocks, walk through a rugged wash, and climb a natural rock staircase, it's an unforgettable adventure with sweeping desert views.

- **Distance:** 4.2 miles round-trip (out & back), **Elevation Gain:** 548 ft, **Time:** 3–5 hours, **Difficulty:** Strenuous (rock scrambling, uneven terrain)
- **Bring:** Plenty of water, layered clothing, snacks, sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen. Hiking sticks highly recommended. No pets allowed.

Trip Leaders: Kat Salas & Pam Almodovar
Contact: katsalas7@gmail.com, (915) 497-6961

[RSVP here!](#)

OCT
05

Tonuco Fluorite Mine & Petroglyphs



Departure: 7:30 AM – Dairy Queen (Transmountain & I-10)

Journey into the San Diego Mountains to explore a hidden treasure, a historic fluorite mine, and view Native American petroglyphs and pictographs etched into the rock. This hike blends history, geology, and culture with desert beauty all around.

- **Difficulty:** Moderate to Strenuous (steep terrain, slippery when wet)
- **Drive:** 4-wheel drive needed for final mile (we'll carpool/shuttle those without suitable vehicles), **Time:** 2–4 hours
- **Bring:** Water, snacks, hiking boots, long pants, sunscreen, hat, and hiking sticks for balance

Trip Leaders: Paul Galvan & Brian Gillis
Contact: (915) 861-2990, lgillis@elp.rr.com

[RSVP here!](#)



OCT
11

Sunrise Yoga & Hike - Hueco Tanks State Park



Departure: 8:00 AM – Meet outside the gate of Hueco Tanks State Park

Start your weekend with peace, movement, and desert magic. We'll begin with a gentle outdoor yoga session led by Beth Marek (Blue Lizard Yoga) surrounded by the beauty of Hueco Tanks. Afterward, we'll hike through this sacred desert park to see ancient pictographs and learn about its rich cultural history and natural ecology.

- **Yoga:** 1-hour guided session
- **Hike:** Light to moderate, rocky trails and small inclines
- **Bring:** Yoga mat, water, layered clothing, hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat
- **Note:** The group must enter the park together at 8:00 AM — late arrivals cannot be accommodated due to park restrictions.

Trip Leaders: Melissa Ortega & Beth Marek

Contact: melissa.nicole51@gmail.com

[**RSVP here!**](#)

OCT
12

Kids Discovery: Archaeology Adventure at Keystone Park



Departure: Keystone Heritage Park and El Paso Desert Botanical Garden at 4200 Doniphan Dr., El Paso, TX 79922. Meet at the front entrance at 9:00 am. We have reservations to use the park from 9:00 to 12:00.

Calling all young explorers! Kids (and their families) will get hands-on with fun activities that bring archaeology to life, analyze real dinosaur tracks, make your own mold fossils, join a mini excavation dig! This unique experience introduces children to the exciting work of archaeologists while enjoying the natural beauty of Keystone Park.

- **Difficulty:** Easy (family-friendly)
- **Bring:** Adult supervision for young children, water, snacks, comfortable shoes, long pants, hat

Trip Leader: Brian Gillis

Contact: (915) 861-2990, lgillis@elp.rr.com

[**RSVP here!**](#)

OCT
18

Women's Geo Hike - Cottonwood Spring Trail



Departure: 8:30 AM Franklin Mountains State Park (Tom Mays Unit)

Experience the beauty of the desert on a women-centered hike through the Franklin Mountains. This guided hike along the Cottonwood Springs Trail combines adventure, geology, and connection, allowing participants to learn about the landscape while enjoying the company of fellow outdoor enthusiasts. It's a welcoming experience for both new and experienced hikers, providing inspiration and support on the trail.

- **Distance:** ~3 miles out & back, **Elevation Gain:** ~750 ft, **Duration:** 2–3 hours (with rest and learning stops), **Difficulty:** Intermediate
- **Bring:** Comfortable hiking shoes, plenty of water, snacks, sun protection (hat, sunscreen), and a spirit of adventure
- **Fee:** \$5 per person (pay online in advance or at the Visitor Center before joining)

Trip Leader: Lexie Dominguez Garcia

Contact: (915) 873-7323, allikatmarie@gmail.com

[RSVP here!](#)

OCT
18

Who's Running Around the Desert at Night?



Departure: Location details will be provided to registered participants only.

Join a guided night hike in the desert to explore nocturnal plants and animals. The experience includes a short orientation and a 1-mile round-trip journey with educational stops along the way.

- **Distance:** ~1 mile total, **Duration:** 2–3 hours, **Difficulty:** Moderate (family-friendly)
- **Bring:** Good walking shoes, water, snacks, and a flashlight or headlamp
- **Important:** Participants must purchase a Texas Parks & Wildlife park pass in advance (available online).



****Limited to 25 participants. Advance registration through Eventbrite is required, and participants must present their Eventbrite ticket at check-in. No walk-ins permitted.**

Trip Leader: Dr. Paul Hyder

Contact: com.915mountains@gmail.com

[Register here!](#)

OCT
19

Explore the Oro Grande Mining District



Departure: 9AM meet at Circle K 4501 Woodrow Bean, near Lowes.

Step back in time to the historic mining district of Oro Grande where gold, silver, copper, and iron once lured prospectors. Led by geologist Lance Robert, this trip combines history and hands-on geology:

- **Difficulty:** Moderate (short hikes, one longer ~1 mile walk with incline), **Trip Length:** 6+ hours
- **Family friendly:** Kids welcome if they can walk uneven terrain
- **Bring:** Water, lunch, sunscreen, hiking shoes, rock hammer. High-clearance vehicles recommended; carpooling available.

Trip Leader: Lance Robert

Contact: (409) 554-1961, hlswrob@yahoo.com

[RSVP here!](#)

OCT
25

La Luz Pottery & Tularosa Basin Museum



Departure: 10 AM, meet at Walmart Supercenter 4530 Woodrow Bean Transmountain El Paso, TX 79924. Meet under the Walmart sign on the building near the front entrance and near the American flag.

Step into the rich history and artistry of southern New Mexico! This trip will include visits to: La Luz Pottery and Tularosa Basin Museum. It's a perfect blend of art, culture, and history — with time to learn, explore, and enjoy the charm of Alamogordo and Tularosa.

- **Trip Length:** ~4 hours (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Alamogordo, plus 2 hours travel time)
- **Difficulty:** Easy (museum and site tours, accessible for most participants)
- **Bring:** Water, comfortable shoes, lunch/snacks, sun protection, curiosity!

Trip Leader: Hazel Awalt & Daniel Miller,

Contact: com.915mountains@gmail.com

[RSVP here!](#)

OCT
30



October Spooky Social

Location: Sabertooth Food Co., 4006 N Mesa St, El Paso, TX 79902

Time: 7PM

Come rock out at our monthly social, deck yourself out in your snazziest geology-inspired costume! Whether you fancy yourself a dapper geode or a stylish sedimentary layer, creativity is key. Enjoy an evening filled with music, games, and camaraderie as we celebrate the wonders of the Earth. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, so let your imagination run wild. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow enthusiasts and make some unforgettable memories. See you there for a rock-solid good time!

HALLOWEEN Costume Contest



NOV
01

Geo Grand Tour I: UTEP Partnership



Departure: TBD

Join us for the first of three Geo Grand Tours, a special partnership with UTEP geology students who will serve as your guides. This unique walking tour will take participants to key locations on the UTEP campus and surrounding areas, where students will explain the fascinating geologic history of El Paso. You'll learn how ancient seas, volcanic eruptions, and desert uplift shaped the land beneath our feet. From fossil-rich limestones to volcanic formations, these tours make geology come alive right here in our community.

- **Difficulty:** Easy (walking tour)
- **Bring:** Water, comfortable walking shoes, hat, and sun protection

Led by: UTEP Geology Students

Contact: com.915mountains@gmail.com

[RSVP Here!!](#)

NOV
02

Kilbourne Hole Volcanic Crater



Departure: 9AM meet at Rudy's BBQ, BBQ restaurant, 6401 S Desert Blvd, El Paso, TX 79912

Visit one of the Southwest's most spectacular volcanic features! Kilbourne Hole is a maar crater formed by a powerful volcanic explosion thousands of years ago. Today it's a National Natural Landmark and one of the best places to see mantle xenoliths (chunks of Earth's mantle brought to the surface).

- **Difficulty:** Moderate (uneven desert terrain, some hiking), **Trip Length:** 6+ hours
- **Bring:** Water, lunch, sturdy shoes, sun protection. Rock hammers optional.
- **High-clearance vehicles recommended — carpooling available.**

Trip Leaders: Eddie Zuniga & Lance Robert

Contact: hlswrob@yahoo.com



[RSVP here!](#)

NOV
08

Geo Grand Tour II: UTEP Partnership



Departure: TBD

Continue your geologic journey in the second installment of the Geo Grand Tours, guided by UTEP geology students. This outing takes participants beyond campus into nearby El Paso sites, where students will highlight unique formations that tell the story of shifting seas, ancient mountains, and volcanic activity.

Participants will gain a deeper appreciation of the natural history that surrounds us and see how El Paso's landscape has been shaped over hundreds of millions of years.

- **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (walking tour with short hikes)
- **Bring:** Water, comfortable walking shoes, hat, snacks, and sun protection

Led by: UTEP Geology Students

Contact: com.915mountains@gmail.com

[RSVP here!](#)

NOV
09

Pups on the Trail - Lost Dog



Departure: TBD – Likely meet at Lost Dog Trailhead

A dog-friendly community hike for people and their pups! Enjoy the desert trails of Lost Dog while connecting with fellow dog lovers. This outing is designed for all skill levels and is a great way to get outdoors with your four-legged friend.

- **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (trail conditions TBD), **Trip Length:** ~3hrs
- **Bring:** Leash, water for you & your dog, waste bags, sun protection. **Dogs must remain leashed at all times.**

Trip Leaders: Melissa Ortega & Lexie Dominguez Garcia

Contact: melissa.nicole51@gmail.com

[RSVP here!](#)

NOV
15

El Paso Area Volcanoes & Drone Exploration



Departure: 10:00 AM (meet at Love's Travel Stop, Artcraft/Airport Rd)

Experience the fascinating volcanic landscapes of the Rio Grande Rift Basin. Geologist Lance Robert and educator David Alvarado will guide you through young basaltic volcanoes while contrasting them with older, more explosive volcanic rocks in the region. The trip includes drone photography and video, giving participants aerial views of the craters and lava flows.

- **Difficulty:** Easy (two short ~½ mile hikes on rocky terrain), **Trip Length:** 6+ hours
- **Bring:** Water, lunch, sunscreen, hiking shoes, rock hammer. High-clearance vehicles recommended; carpools available.
- **Family Friendly:** Great for kids and adults of all ages.

Trip Leaders: Lance Robert & David Alvarado

Contact: (409) 554-1961, hlswrob@yahoo.com

[RSVP here!](#)

NOV
15

Sunset Photography Walk at Rio Bosque



Departure: 4 PM, meet at bridge over Riverside Canal at Rio Bosque

Capture the magic of sunset at Rio Bosque Wetlands. Learn from local naturalists about the plants, wildlife, and history of the Bosque while improving your photography skills. We'll aim to photograph the dramatic crow roosting event as thousands of birds settle in for the evening.

- **Difficulty:** Easy (flat trails, partially wheelchair accessible), **Trip Length:** 6+ hours
- **Bring:** Camera or smartphone, water, sun protection, comfortable walking shoes.

Trip Leaders: Katalina Salas & Cristian Trujillo

Contact: katsalas7@gmail.com, (915) 497-6961

[RSVP here!](#)

NOV
16

Rock Climbing at Hueco Tanks



Departure: 8:45AM, meet at Sessions Climbing Gym to caravan to Hueco Tanks

Try something new! This beginner-friendly climbing workshop is designed for adults curious about rock climbing. Learn climbing techniques, safety basics, and geology of Hueco's world-famous boulders. Gear is provided.

- **Duration:** ~2 hours
- **Difficulty:** Beginner (no prior experience required)
- **Age:** 18+ only
- **Bring:** Athletic clothing, water bottle, and sense of adventure!

Trip Leaders: Melissa Ortega & Sessions Climbing
Contact: melissa.nicole51@gmail.com



****Limited spots please register on Eventbrite using the link below! No walk-ins allowed!**

[Register here!](#)



NOV
22

Geo Grand Tour III: UTEP Partnership



Departure: TBD

The final Geo Grand Tour wraps up this student-led series exploring El Paso's remarkable geology. UTEP geology students will lead participants to field sites around the city to examine fossils, volcanic rocks, and desert formations that reveal the area's geologic past.

This tour ties everything together, highlighting how Earth processes continue to shape the Franklin Mountains and surrounding desert today. It's a chance to see geology in action, guided by the very students studying to become our region's next geoscientists.

- **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (walking tour with short hikes)
- **Bring:** Water, sturdy shoes, hat, snacks, and sun protection

Led by: UTEP Geology Students
Contact: com.915mountains@gmail.com

[RSVP here!](#)

NOV
20



November Social

Location: Ardovino's Desert Crossing, 1 Ardovino's Dr, Sunland Park, NM 88063

Time: 6 PM

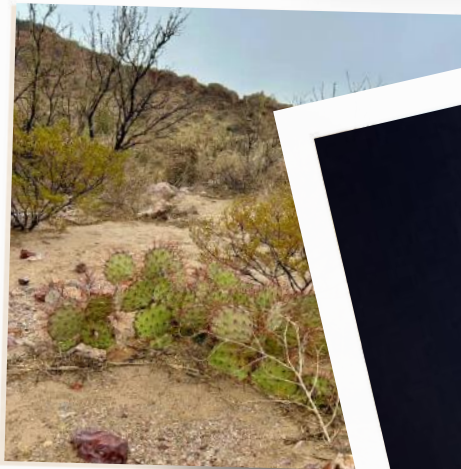
Cozy up at our monthly gathering! Mingle with our amazing organization leaders, discuss all the thrilling activities we engage in, and connect with other adventure enthusiasts! Enjoy an evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and inspiring conversations. Savor delicious bites and refreshments as you explore new opportunities and experiences. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to our community, this is the perfect occasion to forge lasting friendships and share your passion for adventure. We can't wait to see you there!



Community **PHOTO SHARE**



**Pam Almadovar & Kiddos
Spring 2025 Kilbourne Hole Trip**



**Veronica Chavira- Guardado
Aztec Caves, Franklin Mnts.**



OUR FRIENDS



BLUE LIZARD YOGA



SUPPORT OUR MISSION SPONSOR AN EVENT!



We invite you to support our mission by sponsoring an event. Sponsorships help cover essential costs like permits, expert guides, and educational materials, ensuring we can continue offering these experiences to the community for free. As a sponsor, you'll have your name featured on the event and across all our social media and promotions, plus recognition at the event itself. It's a great way to give back, show your support for outdoor education, and connect with our amazing community.

Contact us for details on how you can help!



Contact Us!

SCAN ME!

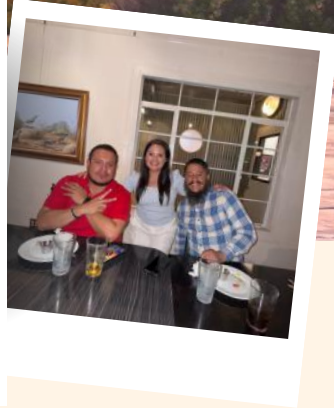
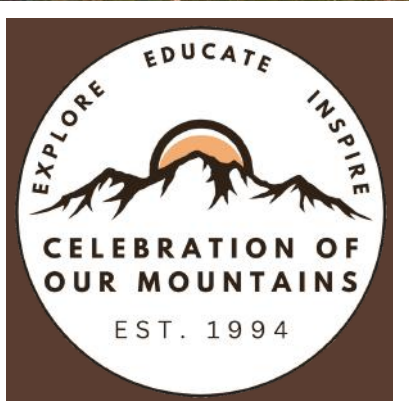


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Email us at com.915mountains@gmail.com



Donate to Get more people outside!

We're waving our fundraising flag and hoping you'll join the parade! We'd love your donations to keep our programs thriving and our expertise shining bright during our adventures!

SCAN ME



[Donate Today](#)

[Link to Donate](#)

NOTES:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly aged or off-white appearance. The edges of the paper are visible against a dark background.



celebrationofourmountains.squarespace.com

