CELEBRATION OF OUR MOUNTAINS

EXPLORE·EDUCATE·INSPIRE

EST. 1994

FALL 2026 PROGRAM



HAPPY EXPLORING

Join us for our Fall program full of free hikes, including our favorites and some new! We can't wait to get you outside!

COM.915MOUNTAINS@GMAIL.COM

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Mountains,

As we put together this season's program, I'm reminded once again why we do this work: to share our fabulous natural surroundings and get people out of their chairs and into the beautiful, rugged landscapes of El Paso and Southern New Mexico. Whether it's a quiet ridge walk, a desert bird watch, or a morning spent turning over rocks with new friends, these outings remind us how much nature is right in our own backyard.

This season we're especially excited to launch a new program that we think will bring fresh energy to our group, more on that inside! We're also thrilled by the growing partnership with faculty and students from UTEP, who have brought credibility and enthusiasm to several of our geology and rock-hounding trips. Supporting students as they practice their skills in the field is precisely the kind of community connection and continuing education our organization was made to foster, and we're proud to keep that tradition growing.

As always, our calendar reflects the full range of what makes this region special: gentle senior walks for those who want to move at an easier pace, geology-focused tours designed for curious laypersons, and rockhounding excursions that dig into the area's rich mining history. Whatever your pace or interest, there's a trip in here for you.

None of this happens without the volunteers, guides, and board members who give their time to make these outings possible. If you've ever thought about getting more involved, leading a hike, helping with logistics, or joining our board, we would love to hear from you. Our organization runs entirely on the generosity of people like you. Thank you for being part of this community. I hope to see you out on the trail soon.

Thank You

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of our donors and volunteers. You play a critical role in helping enrich the lives of those in our community. Thanks to your contributions, we can offer experiences that inspire and foster a love for nature and the great outdoors. We look forward to continuing this journey together and hope to create even more unforgettable memories in the coming year. A special thank you to all our individual donors and to our regional energy provider Marathon for their generous support this year. Your kindness truly makes a difference!

Donate Today

Link to Donate

SCAN ME

OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Lance Robert
President



Katalina Salas
Vice President
Outreach Lead



Hazel Awalt
Treasurer



Brian Gillis
Secretary



Marc Garcia
Advisory Board Member
Trips Lead

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Trinity Fushille
Outreach Committee Intern



Lexie Dominguez
Outreach Committee

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Upcoming Activities

OCTOBER 03	Geology of the Franklin Mountains
POSTPONED	Desert Arches Rocky Marches
OCTOBER 10	Hueco Tanks Hike
OCTOBER 10	Who's Running Around the Desert at night?
OCTOBER 11	Arroyo Trail to La Cueva Trail
OCTOBER 17	Hardly any Walking "Geology Hike"
OCTOBER 18	Oro Grande Rock Hounding
OCTOBER 24	Lost Dog Spooky Hike
OCTOBER 25	Cretaceous Geological Treasures - Sierra de Juarez
NOVEMBER 1	Tonuco Fluorite Mine & Petroglyphs
NOVEMBER 7	Devils Hall Hike

com.915mountains@gmail.com

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Upcoming Activities

NOVEMBER 8	Knapp land Tour w/ Frontera Land Alliance
NOVEMBER 14	Kilbourne Hole Hike
NOVEMBER 14	Geology Tour of El Paso
NOVEMBER 15	Igneous Geology at Mount Cristo Rey
NOVEMBER 22	Scenic Drive Fossil Hike
NOVEMBER 22	Coming to Roost: Crow Watching at Rio Bosque
DECEMBER 5	Junior Explorers: Friends of Rio Bosque
DECEMBER 6	Mundy's Gap Hike
DECEMBER 19	Potrillo Volcanoes and Sunset
DECEMBER 23	Full Moon Photography Hike

com.915mountains@gmail.com

FALL TRIP LEADERS



Alexa Couroux
UTEP Grad Student in Geology



Angelica Paz
Explorer, Educator



Brenna April
UTEP Grad Student Geology



Brian Gillis
Board Secretary, Educator



Dia Jimenez
UTEP Undergraduate Student in Geology
Frontera Land Alliance



Daniel Fox
Educator, Native Plant Expert



Erica Esparza
Feminist Bird Club Treasurer & Grocery Store Lady



Gus Dominguez
Educator, Experienced Hiking Guide



Hazel Awalt, MD
Board Treasurer



Jamie Ackerman
Educator



Jason Ricketts, PhD
UTEP Geology Professor



Jay Chapman, PhD
UTEP Geology Professor

FALL TRIP LEADERS



Katalina Salas, PhD
EPCC Geology Adjunct
Board Vice President



Lance Robert
Geologist
Board President



Lexie Dominguez
Educator, Experienced Hiking Guide



Lilian Smith
Feminist Bird Club El Paso President, Ornienthusiast



Manny Sosa
Geologist



Marc Garcia, PhD
Geophysicist



Marissa Ramirez
Frontera Land Alliance



Milton Mendoza
UTEP Undergraduate Student in Geology



Pam Almodovar
Educator, Nature Enthusiast



Paulo Galvan
Educator, Geologist



Paul Hyder. PhD
Ecologist, Educator, Musician



Perla Rodríguez Contreras
Geoscience Educator
UTEP Grad Student in Geology

FALL TRIP LEADERS



Luis Angel Jiménez López
Geoscience Educator



Sabrina Kerr
UTEP Undergraduate Student in Geology



Stephen Stiles
Explorer



Trinity Fushille
UTEP Undergraduate Student in Geophysics

COLLABORATORS

UTEP DEERS

U.T.E.P. A.A.P.G.

RESCUE RUNNERS

Association for Women Geoscientists
Sun City Chapter

the FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE

Sociedad Geocientífica del Desierto Chihuahuense

FRIENDS OF THE RIO BOSQUE

TEXAS STATE PARKS

EL PASO FEMINIST BIRD CLUB

HOW TO REGISTER FOR EVENTS!

We are so excited to have you all join us for this Fall's program! To make your experience better we have moved all events to Eventbrite to facilitate registration and better communication about details. If you have any questions about capacity please contact the trip leader for that trip.

Register for all events here!

https://tinyurl.com/COMFALL26

Geology Hike

Trip Lead: Jason Ricketts, PhD

OCT
03

GEOLOGY OF THE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS

Date & Time: Saturday, Oct 03, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Tom Mays State Park

Moderate

We will investigate the rocks that make up the Franklin Mountains and what they can tell us about El Paso's geologic past. This hike includes great overviews of the west side and the east side, and from here we will discuss formation of the mountains and its relationship to water resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE SCIENCES

Distance: 4 miles
Duration: ~3 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: Children have completed this hike with me before, so please bring them along if they like hiking. The entire hike is on a trail, but it can get steep in some places.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL JRICKETTS@UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY
25

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Hike

Trip Lead: Angelica Paz
Co-Lead: Stephen Stiles

DESERT ARCHES ROCKY MARCHES

Date & Time: Sunday, Oct 04, 2026 | 6:45 AM
Location: Doña Ana Arch Trail, Las Cruces, NM

Strenuous

The Doña Ana Arch Loop is a natural-surface trail winding through the desert badlands of the Doña Ana Mountains near Las Cruces, New Mexico. The route features unique geological formations, including a natural sandstone arch and several small caves, set against a backdrop of panoramic view of the Rio Grande Valley and the Organ Mountains.

Distance: 3.2 miles
Duration: ~3 hours
Difficulty: Strenuous
Best for: 10 and over

IMPORTANT: Terrain is typical of the high desert, with rocky ridge sandy arroyos, and loose soil. Please note children under the age of 10 years old are required to reach the summit.

POSTPONED

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL MOJADAPAZ13@GMAIL.COM

CAPACITY
20

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Hike

Trip Lead: Pam Almodovar

OCT
10

HUECO TANKS HIKE

Date & Time: Saturday, Oct 10, 2026 | 8:00 AM
Location: Hueco Tanks State Park

Moderate

We will be hiking to Kiva Cave where we will enjoy incredible views of the surrounding desert and amazing pictographs inside of an unassuming rock shelter. While the hike is short, it can be strenuous at times with some scrambling and crawling into the rock shelter. The height of the entrance into the rock shelter is about 2 feet and opens up to about 6 feet.

Distance: 1 mile
Duration: ~2.5 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: 10 years and over

IMPORTANT: No pets allowed





REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

TEXAS STATE PARKS

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
PALMODOV@GMAIL.COM

SOLD OUT

CA
12

RE

Eventbrite ticket required, no walk-ins allowed.

Entomology

Trip Lead: Paul Hyder, PhD

OCT
10

WHO'S RUNNING AROUND THE DESERT AT NIGHT?

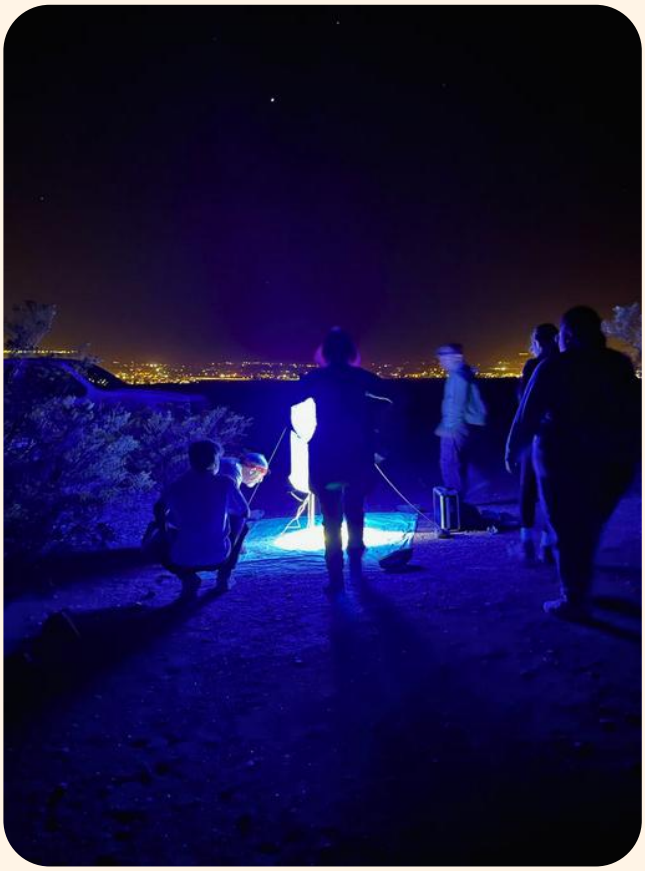
Date & Time: Saturday, Oct 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM
Location: Tom Mays State Park

Easy

This event is a night-time hike to explore the nocturnal world of the desert. We will meet at the gate before moving to the hike location. Following a short orientation lecture on what to expect, and safety, we will hike approximately 1-mile total distance while stopping to examine the various plants and animals that inhabit the area.

Distance: 1.5 miles
Duration: ~2 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: Bring a good flashlight or blacklight



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- Water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Flashlight
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
PHYDER@ZIANET.COM

CAPACITY
25

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Eventbrite ticket required, no walk-ins allowed, meeting location provided after registration.

Hike

Trip Lead: Lexie Dominguez
Co-Lead: Gus Dominguez

OCT
11

ARROYO TRAIL TO LA CUEVA TRAIL

Date & Time: Sunday, Oct 11, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Dripping Springs Rd.

Moderate

Explore the La Cueva trail ! Join us for a scenic 3-mile round-trip hike beginning at the Arroyo Trailhead, located in the Pincin Parking Lot on Dripping Springs Road.
We'll follow the Arroyo Trail as we make our way toward La Cueva, a fascinating destination tucked into the desert landscape.
One of the highlights: La Cueva is a great area to look for pottery fragments and other signs of the people who once traveled through and lived in this landscape. We'll practice responsible exploration by observing and photographing any artifacts we find and leaving everything exactly where it is.

Distance: 3 miles
Duration: ~5 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: 10 years and over

IMPORTANT: Terrain is typical of the high desert, with rocky ridges, sandy aroyos, and loose soil. Please no children under the age of 10 years old. **4x4 is required** to reach the trailhead.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL AMDOMING@EPISD.ORG

CAPACITY
20

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology | Senior Friendly

Trip Lead: Jamie Ackerman
Co-Lead: Hazel Awalt

OCT 17

HARDLY ANY WALKING "GEOLOGY HIKE"

Date & Time: Saturday, Oct 17, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Rim Road El Paso

Easy

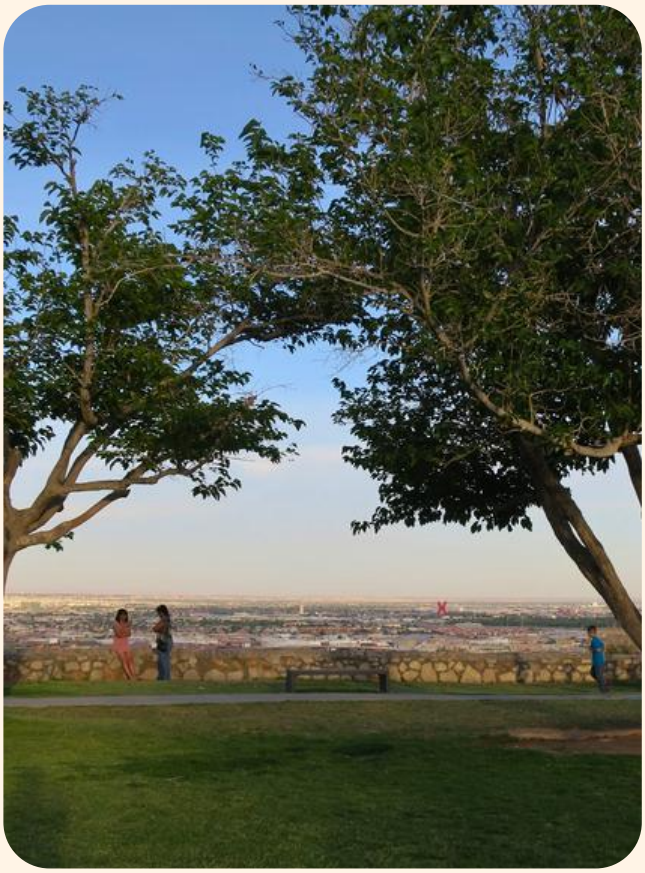
From the rim above El Paso the whole story of the Franklin Mountains is laid out in front of you, and you barely have to walk to read it. In about a hundred feet we will take in a slice of the region's geology, with the city, the river and two countries spread out below. For anyone who wants the view and the story without the climb.

Distance: 100 feet
Duration: ~1 hour
Difficulty: Easy
Best for: Seniors

IMPORTANT: Not for Children

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- Water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL JAMINTEX42@GMAIL.COM

CAPACITY
12

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology | Hike | Rock Hounding | Botany

Trip Lead: Lance Robert
Co-Lead: Daniel Fox

OCT 18

ORO GRANDE ROCK HOUNDING

Date & Time: Sunday, Oct 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Oro Grande, NM

Moderate

Join us for an exploration of the Oro Grande Mining District where we will look at the geology, mining history, desert botany, while rockhounding for colorful mineral specimens. Participants will see abandoned mining features that are remnants of the operations and mineral resources that drew early prospectors to the area. Along the route, we will also focus on native desert plants, discussing the unique plant species and hybridization in this area. Rockhounding is a key component of this trip, and participants will have opportunities to collect colorful mineral specimens (where allowed), including hematite, magnetite, quartz, garnet, chrysocolla and malachite.

Distance: 2 miles
Duration: ~6 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: Children 10 and over

IMPORTANT: 4x4 is required a portion of the trip requires travel on dirt roads, making high-clearance vehicles necessary. Carpooling will be coordinated as needed at the meeting point.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL HLSWROB@YAHOO.COM

CAPACITY 20

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Hike Conservation

Trip Lead: Katalina Salas, PhD
Co-Lead: Marc Garcia, PhD

OCT
24

LOST DOG SPOOKY HIKE

Date & Time: Saturday, Oct 24, 2026 | 8:00 AM
Location: Lost Dog Trail

Moderate

Join us for a meaningful morning at the Lost Dog Nature Preserve, where outdoor recreation meets community connection and conservation. This trip includes a special partnership with Rescue Runners 915, a local nonprofit that helps shelter dogs get exercise, enrichment, and visibility outside the shelter environment. Eligible participants will be paired with a shelter dog to walk during the hike, supporting both physical activity and socialization for these pups. Participants will hike approximately two miles through the Lost Dog Nature Preserve, a protected area stewarded by Frontera Land Alliance.

Distance: 2.5 miles
Duration: ~3 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: Adults 18 and over

RESCUE RUNNERS

the FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE

IMPORTANT: Participants must be 18 years or older to be assigned a shelter dog. **No personal pets are allowed** to ensure the safety of shelter dogs; one dog per vehicle. All dog-handling guidelines provided by Rescue Runners 915 must be followed.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- Water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL KSALAS6@UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY
15

RSVP INFO:

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology | Hike | international | *Bilingual*

Trip Lead: Perla Rodríguez Contreras
Co-Lead: Luis Angel

OCT 25

CRETACEOUS GEOLOGICAL TREASURES – SIERRA DE JUÁREZ

Date & Time: Sunday, Oct 25, 2026 | 7:00 AM
Location: NE Sierra de Juárez, Ciudad Juárez

Moderate

On this hike, we will travel back to the Cretaceous Period, when the region was covered by a sea rich in marine life. Along the trail, we will discover rocks that record ancient marine and magmatic events and see how these processes shaped the beautiful landscape we observe today.
En esta caminata, viajaremos al período Cretácico, cuando la región estaba cubierta por un mar rico en vida marina. A lo largo del sendero, descubriremos rocas que registran antiguos eventos marinos y magmáticos, y veremos cómo estos procesos moldearon el hermoso paisaje que observamos hoy.

Distance: 1.9 miles, 3 km
Duration: ~7 hours.
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: All ages, Todas edades

IMPORTANT: Bring a **valid passport** or passport card — required to re-enter the United States. Bring Pesos.
Pasaporte vigente indispensable para regresar a Estados Unidos. Traiga Pesos.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water/Agua
- Healthy snacks/ Bocadillos
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers/Calzado cómodo para caminar
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses/Sombrero
- Light jacket and small backpack/Manga larga

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL PRODRIGUEZ66@MINERS.UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY 25

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Eventbrite ticket required, no walk-ins allowed.

Geology | Hike | Rock Hounding

Trip Lead: Brian Gillis
Co-Lead: Paulo Galvan

NOV
01

TONUCO FLUORITE MINE & PETROGLYPHS

Date & Time: Sunday, Nov 1, 2026 | 7:00 AM
Location: Rincon, NM



Strenuous

The aim is to present an understanding of early regional natives and learn about their techniques and classifications of their petroglyph drawings while exploring sandstone boulders to find the carvings. Discover some interesting facts about mining barite and fluorite in the area while entering an abandoned exploratory barite mine from early 1900's.

Distance: 2.5 miles
Duration: ~5 hours
Difficulty: Strenuous
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: 4x4 is required , a portion of the trip requires travel off road, making high-clearance vehicles necessary. Carpooling will be coordinated as needed at the meeting point.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack
- Walking sticks recommended

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL LGILLIS@ELP.RR.COM

CAPACITY
20

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology Hike

Trip Lead: Katalina Salas, PhD
Co-lead: Marc Garcia, PhD

NOV 07

DEVILS HALL HIKE

Date & Time: Saturday, Sep 26, 2026 | 7:00 AM
Location: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

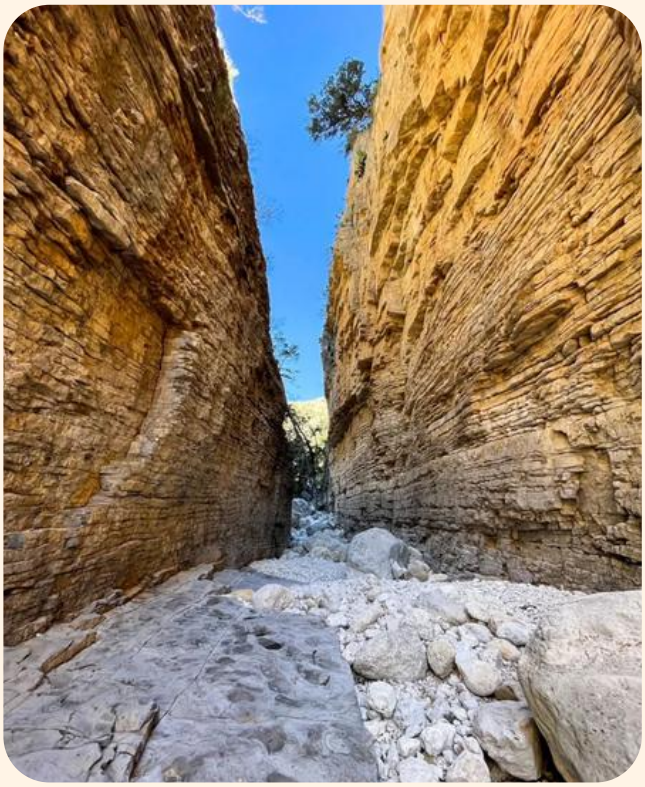


Strenuous

The route to Devil's Hall departs from the Pine Springs Trailhead and is 4.2 miles round-trip. After the first mile the trail leads to a rocky wash which takes hikers to an impressive natural rock staircase leading to a "hallway" formed by steep canyon walls. The wash portion of the route requires the hiker to scramble over large boulders and other debris. This route offers spectacular views of geologic formations, steep canyon walls, tall trees, and mountaintops. **NO PETS ALLOWED**

Distance: 4.2 miles
Duration: ~5 hours
Difficulty: Strenuous
Best for: Children 10 and over

IMPORTANT: Much of this route crosses loose rock and a boulder-filled wash, with some scrambling required. Sturdy hiking shoes or boots and trekking poles are highly recommended.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack
- Walking sticks recommended

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
KSALAS6@UTEP.EDU

SOLD OUT

R HERE TODAY!

Eventbrite ticket required, no walk-ins allowed.

Geology | Hike | Conservation

Trip Lead: Dia Jimenez
Co-Lead: Marissa Ramirez

NOV
08

KNAPP LAND TOUR

Date & Time: Sunday, Nov 8, 2026 | 3:00 PM
Location: Knapp Land Nature Preserve

Strenuous

Join us for a tour of Knapp Canyon along the Powerline Trail located in Northeast El Paso. This hike will include an overview of the geology and native plant life; we may see some wildlife in this region.

Distance: 2 miles
Duration: ~2 hours
Difficulty: Strenous
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: This trail does have some steep inclines and descents. Please do not block driveways in the residential area near the trail head.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack
- Walking sticks recommended

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL DJIMENEZ22@MINERS.UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY
25

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology Hike

Trip Lead: Brenna April
Co-lead: Trinity Fushille

NOV
14

KILBOURNE HOLE HIKE

Date & Time: Sunday, Sep 27, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Kilbourne Hole, NM

Moderate

This moderate walking tour (~2 miles) explores one of the Southwest's most striking volcanic maar craters. Participants learn about volcanism, mantle xenoliths, and eruption processes while traversing sandy and rocky terrain. Ideal for teens and adults, this trip offers a rare opportunity to stand inside a volcanic feature and understand the forces that shaped it.

Association for Women Geoscientists
Sun City Chapter

Distance: 2 miles
Duration: ~3 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: 4x4 is required for this trip. Carpooling will be available from meet up point.

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL
BTAPRIL@MINERS.UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY
30

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology Tour

Trip Lead: Paulo Galvan
Co-Lead: Manny Sosa

NOV
14

GEOLOGY TOUR OF EL PASO

Date & Time: Saturday, Nov 14, 2026 | 8:00 AM
Location: El Paso

Easy

Join us for a drive-and-stop tour exploring the geologic history of El Paso. We will begin at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology on Transmountain Road, make two stops along Transmountain to examine Precambrian and Paleozoic rock formations, visit the Great Unconformity at McKelligon Canyon and conclude our tour at Mt. Cristo Rey to discuss the formation of the Rio Grande Rift and its role in shaping the Franklin Mountains and surrounding landscape. This tour is designed for anyone interested in learning how over a billion years of geologic history are recorded in the rocks of the El Paso area. We look forward to exploring El Paso's geologic story with you!

Distance: 1 mile
Duration: ~3 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: This is a driving tour, with multiple stops.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL GEOROCKS30@GMAIL.COM

CAPACITY
30

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology Hike

Trip Lead: Jay Chapman, PhD
Co-Lead: Sabrina Kerr

NOV
15

IGNEOUS GEOLOGY AT MOUNT CRISTO REY

Date & Time: Sunday, Nov 15, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Location: Mount Cristo Rey

Strenuous

Join us for a hike up Mount Cristo Rey. Once we are at the top we will discuss a birds eye view of the geology in the surrounding areas. We will discuss various igenous bodies and structures.

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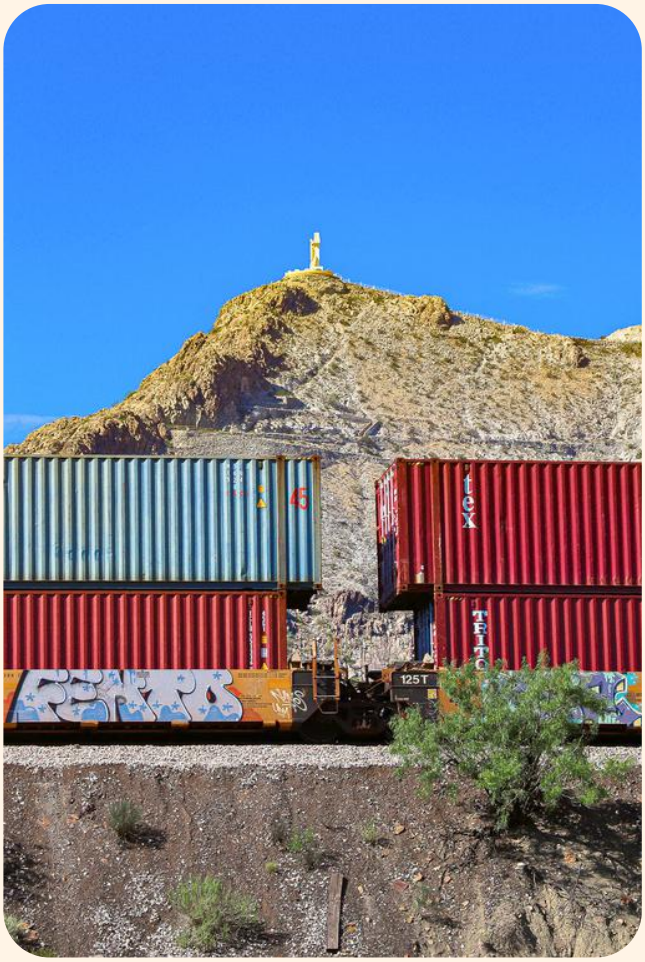
Distance: 5 miles
Duration: ~5 hours
Difficulty: Strenuous
Best for: Children 10 and over

IMPORTANT: The trail can get steep in some areas.

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL JBCHAPMANV@UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY
30

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology Hike

Trip Lead: Alexa Couroux
Co-Lead: Milton Mendoza

NOV
22

SCENIC DRIVE FOSSIL HIKE

Date & Time: Sunday, Nov 22, 2026 | 7:30 AM
Location: Scenic Drive

Moderate

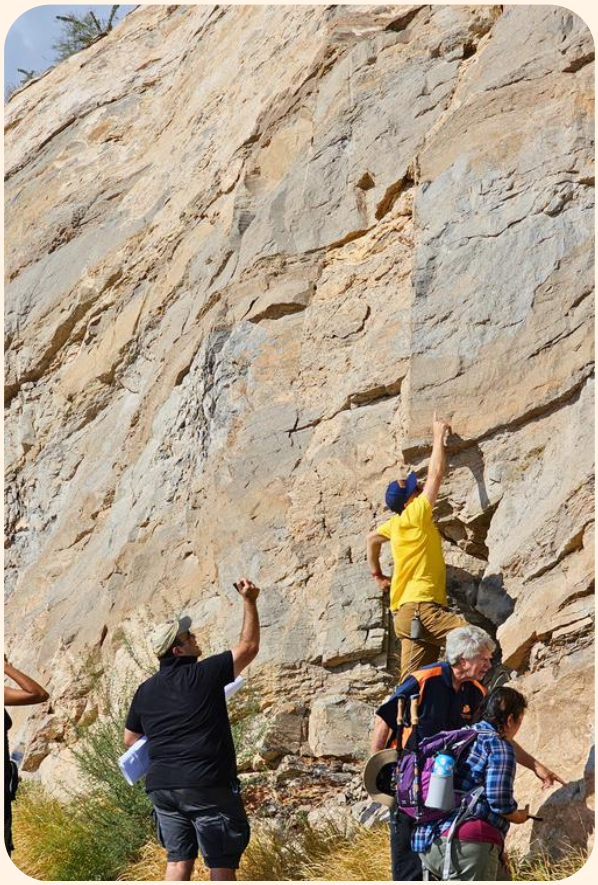
The limestones exposed along Scenic Drive were laid down on the floor of a shallow sea, and they still hold the shells of the animals that lived in it. On this walk beneath the south end of the Franklin Mountains, we will look for fossils in the rock and talk about the sea that once covered El Paso, with the city, the river, and Juárez laid out below us.

Association for Women Geoscientists
Sun City Chapter

U.T.E.P. A.A.P.G.

Distance: 5 miles
Duration: ~4 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: Scenic drive is closed to thru-traffic on Sunday.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL AMCOUROUX@MINERS.UTEP.EDU

CAPACITY
30

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Birding Hike

Trip Lead: Lilian Smith
Co-Lead: Erica Esparza

NOV
22

COMING TO ROOST: CROW WATCHING AT RIO BOSQUE

Date & Time: Sunday, Nov 22, 2026 | 4:30 PM
Location: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Easy

On this easy hike around the Rio Bosque, we will watch the crows and ravens come to roost. Thousands of these birds take refuge at the Bosque each winter. We will walk to a good viewing location about a mile in, where you will be free to enjoy the murder rolling in. Once it gets dark, we will head back to our cars.

Distance: 2 miles
Duration: ~2.5hours
Difficulty: Easy
Best for: All ages

EL PASO FEMINIST BIRD CLUB

IMPORTANT: It is a walk out to the viewing spot, so only bring what you are happy to carry.

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Binoculars and a folding chair
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL SMITH.T.LILLIAN@GMAIL.COM

CAPACITY
25

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Junior Explorers

Trip Lead: Rocio Ronquillo

DEC
05

JUNIOR EXPLORERS: FRIENDS OF RIO BOSQUE

Date & Time: Saturday, Dec 5, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Easy

Together, we will explore and learn about Rio Bosque through our Jr. Explorer Program! We will have three fun stations where kids can learn about bugs, enjoy beginner-friendly birding using a bird scavenger hunt guide, and explore the wonders of aquatic insects while drawing their findings.

Distance: .5 miles
Duration: ~2.5 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Best for: Kids under 12

FRIENDS OF THE RIO BOSQUE

IMPORTANT: Parents are required to stay for the duration of the activities.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Binoculars
- Light jacket and small backpack

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL RCRONQUILLO2@UTEP.EDU

SOLD OUT

CA
15

RE
TODAY!

Eventbrite ticket required, no walk-ins allowed

Geology Hike

Trip Lead: Lexie Dominguez

DEC
06

MUNDY'S GAP HIKE

Date & Time: Sunday, Dec 06, 2026 | 9:00 AM
Location: Mundy's Gap



Strenuous

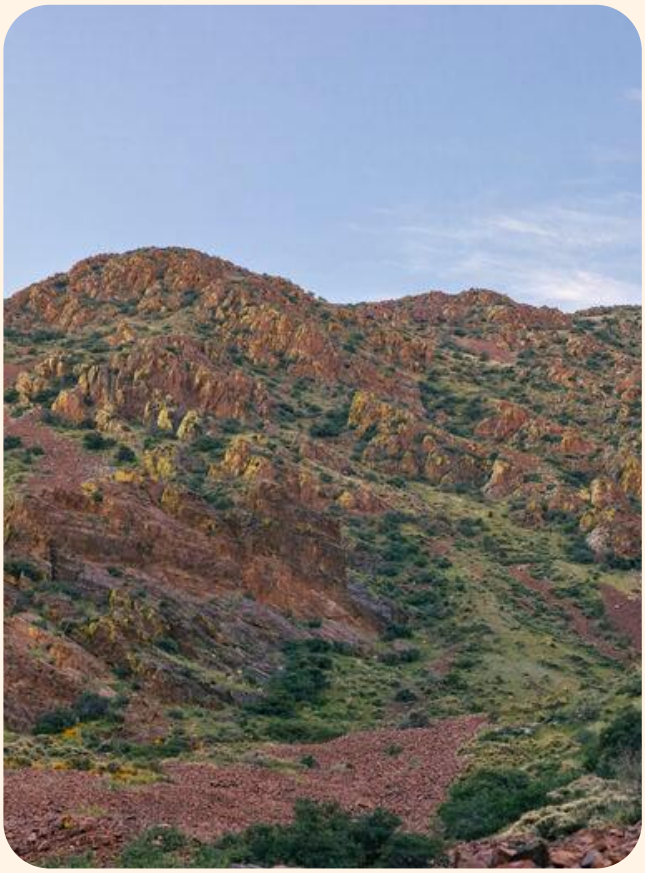
This hike takes us into the heart of the Franklin Mountains, with incredible desert scenery, rocky terrain, and beautiful views along the way. On this 4.5 mile round trip we will climb toward the gap, we'll experience some of the unique geology and natural features that make our home such an amazing place.

Distance: 4.5 miles
Duration: ~4 hours
Difficulty: Strenuous
Best for: Children 10 and over

IMPORTANT: Can be steep and get rocky in some areas of the trail.

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL AMDOMING@EPISD.ORG

CAPACITY
20

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology | Hike | Rock Hounding

Trip Lead: Lance Robert
Co-Lead: Sabrina Kerr

DEC 19

POTRILLO VOLCANOES / DESERT SUNSET

Date & Time: Saturday, Nov 7, 2026 | 2:00 PM
Location: Potrillo Mountains

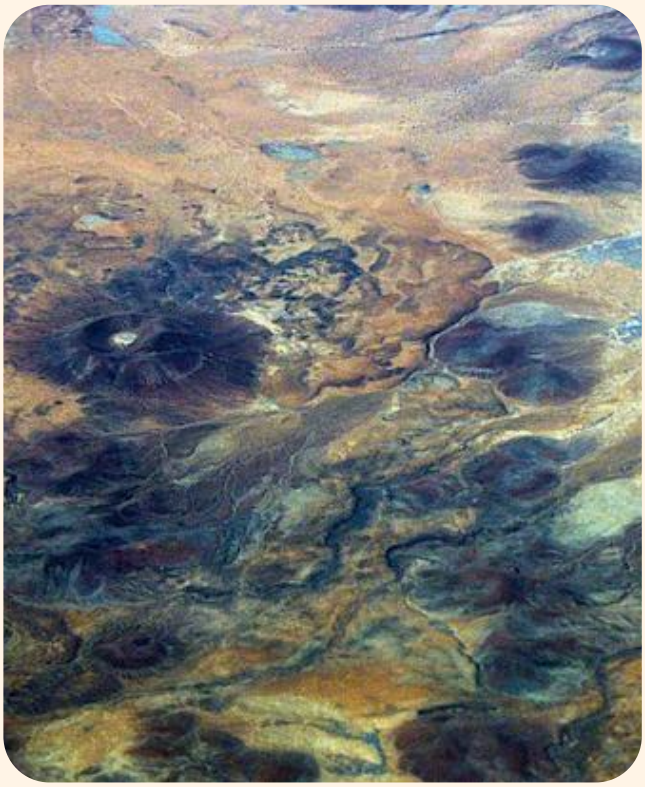


Easy

The aim of this trip is to observe the land forms of the young volcanic features caused by the relatively recent activity along the Rio Grande rift basin, just west of El Paso. We will visit two volcanoes with very different expressions, one a crater-style structure and the other a steep-sided classic cinder cone. There will be two short hikes on the trip (the second is optional) and we will view the sunset from the top of the cinder cone volcano with stunning views of the borderland.

Distance: 1 mile
Duration: ~5 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: 4x4 is required, a portion of the trip requires travel off road, making high-clearance vehicles necessary. Carpooling will be coordinated as needed at the meeting point.



REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses
- Light jacket and small backpack
- Walking sticks recommended

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL HLSWROB@YAHOO.COM

CAPACITY
20

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

Geology | Hike | Photography

Trip Lead: Paulo Galvan
Co-Lead: Manny Sosa

DEC 23

ADEN CRATER FULL MOON PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE

Date & Time: Sunday, Dec 23, 2026 | 2:00 PM
Location: Aden Crater, NM



Moderate

Join us for a unique full moon adventure to one of southern New Mexico's most fascinating volcanic features, Aden Crater. This photography-focused hike combines stunning desert landscapes, dramatic lighting, and a guided geologic exploration of the crater. We will hike and tour the geologic features of the crater, discussing its volcanic origins, lava flows, cinder deposits, and the forces that shaped this remarkable landscape.
As we make our way around and into the crater, we will arrive at the center in time to set up for photography. The timing is ideal, with the full moon rising at 4:14 PM and the sun setting at 5:07 PM, providing excellent opportunities to capture the transition from daylight to moonlight across the volcanic terrain.
This hike involves walking on uneven lava rock and desert terrain. Whether you're a photographer, geology enthusiast, or outdoor adventurer, this special full moon hike offers a rare chance to experience Aden Crater under the glow of a rising winter moon.

Distance: 3 miles
Duration: ~3 hours
Difficulty: Moderate
Best for: All ages

IMPORTANT: 4x4 is required, It is a walk out to the viewing spot, so only bring what you are happy to carry.

REQUIREMENTS & WHAT TO BRING

- 3-4 liters of water
- Healthy snacks or energy bars
- Hiking shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Jacket and small backpack
- Photography equipment



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL GEOROCKS30@GMAIL.COM

CAPACITY
30

REGISTER HERE TODAY!

MONTHLY SOCIALS

Join us for our monthly social gatherings, where we invite a diverse array of experts to share their insights on Earth science and our local region. Our guest speakers include local activists and scientific professionals. We encourage you to join us for food and drinks at any or all of our upcoming monthly socials.

Thursday
24 SEPT 2026

Start From
6:00PM

SEPTEMBER

DR. JAY CHAPMAN

Assistant Professor
Magmatism Across Geologic Time in the EP region

Thursday
29 OCT 2026

Start From
6:00PM

OCTOBER

DR. JOHN OLGIN

EPCC Physics and Astronomy
Professor, NASA GLOBE Partner
Keeping PACE with GLOBE and our Mountains

Thursday
19 NOV 2026

Start From
6:00PM

NOVEMBER

DR. KATALINA SALAS

EPCC Adjunct Professor
Aquifers and the Rio Bosque

Angry Owl Southwest Grill & Cantina
4799 N Mesa St, El Paso, TX 79912

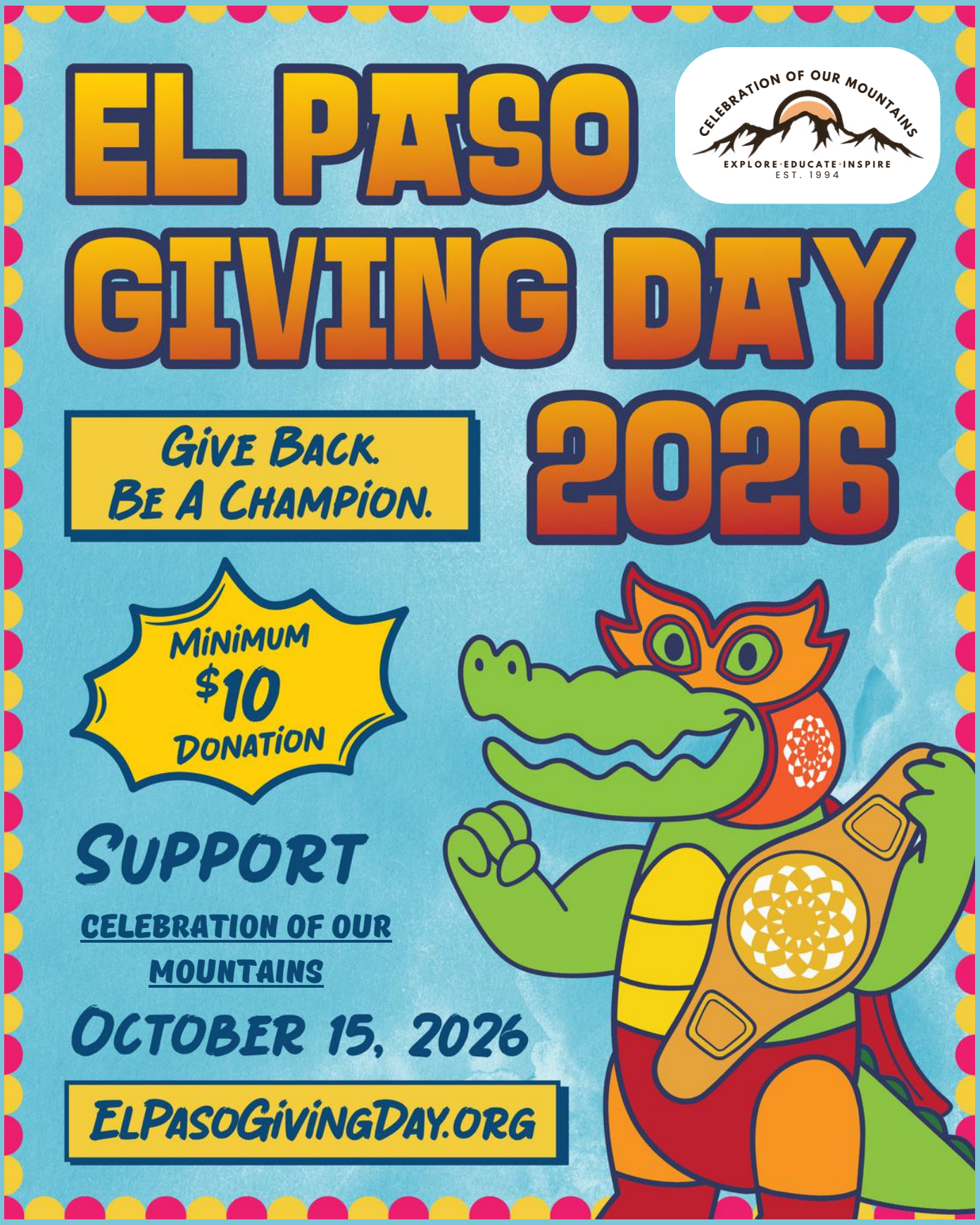
OUTREACH EVENTS

Come visit us at this years Hueco Tanks community fair. We will be there both days sharing our program and some fun activities for all ages! Don't miss the chance to participate in our special crafts corner, where creativity knows no bounds. Plus, we have some fantastic giveaways and prizes lined up for attendees. We look forward to connecting with the community and sharing in the joy of this wonderful event. See you there!



HUECO TANKS COMMUNTIY FAIR

October 17, 2026 - October 18, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
6900 Hueco Tanks Rd No. 1, El Paso, TX 79938
Venue: Hueco Tanks State Park & Historic Site
Admission: FREE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Contact us

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@comountainsep

RSVP for Fall Hikes!

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www.celebrationofourmountains.org

