



October 14, 2008

Dear Parents and Volunteer,

WELCOME!

The Amigos board would like to warmly welcome each of you to our program for the 2008-2009 year. What a pleasant surprise to find such a fine group of applicants this year. We say that every year, but it is our belief that we have a truly exceptional group this year. We are all excited to have such a grand group participating in our program and to be a part of the Amigos experience.

THE MANZANO ORIENTATION RETREAT AND THE FIRST CHAPTER MEETING

This letter provides the details for our first retreat of the year, our Orientation Retreat. For the fifth year it will be at the Manzano Mountain Retreat. It will begin on Friday afternoon October 24th and will end with a Chapter Meeting for parents and families on Sunday, Oct. 26th at 12.15p. lasting for about 2 hours. We will meet in the cafeteria at Menaul School. We will feed the volunteers upon their return from the Manzano Mountain Retreat, prior to the Chapter Meeting.

THE MANZANO ORIENTATION RETREAT

The **retreat is for volunteers only** and all meals will be provided. Volunteers need to meet at the Menaul School parking lot, Menaul and Broadway, at **4:30p. on Friday, October 24, 2008**. We will car pool to the Manzano Mountain Retreat, volunteers who want to leave a vehicle at Menaul School while at the retreat may do so – please be aware that there is limited security on duty over the weekend.

The volunteers will return to Menaul School on **Sunday, October 26, 2008, at approximately 11:30am**.

Drivers: We are recruiting parent drivers and vehicles so that no volunteers will drive to the retreat. We do need parents to volunteer to drive to and from the Manzano Mountain Retreat; please consider being a carpool driver and call Dan Shaffer at 550-4567 or Roger Waldock at 573-4663, if you are willing to assist with car-pooling for the retreat. You can either drive Volunteers out on Friday or bring Volunteers back on Sunday morning (or both). The drive is very scenic and takes a little over an hour each way.

Important, bring the following documents to Menaul School BEFORE the trip to Manzano:

- 1) A signed permission slip (Amigos)
- 2) The Manzano Mountain Retreat Health Statement
- 3) A signed Manzano Mountain Retreat Liability Release Form (also signed by a parent if you are under 18. **If not signed you will not be able to participate in ropes course**)
- 4) Remember, the \$50 application fee are also due by Sunday, Oct. 26th.

Volunteers bring the following for the retreat:

- Writing material, pen, pencil and notebook
- Sleeping bag and pillow (or twin size bed linen and blankets)
- Personal toiletries: toothbrush/paste, soap, sunscreen, towel and washcloth
- Flashlight, raingear +/- umbrella (just in case), warm jacket/long pants (it will be cold)
- **Closed toe shoes are a must for the ropes course.**
- A change of clothes – don't forget - **A sense of adventure**



Albuquerque Chapter

Please leave cell phones and pagers at home – these are not allowed while on our retreats. There is no cell phone coverage at Manzano Mountain Retreat.

If you, the volunteer, are involved in any activity that may prevent you from participating in the retreat, or if you will be late, please contact us or our training directors immediately so our training staff is aware of the situation. (We are aware of several volunteers that will be taking the ACT test on Saturday and will make arrangements to car pool them to Manzano on Saturday lunchtime.) Others may need to provide their own transportation to the retreat. We strongly prefer that no volunteers drive.

THE FIRST CHAPTER MEETING AT MENAUL SCHOOL

The First Chapter Meeting on Sunday is for the volunteers and families. This is a very important meeting and parents need to attend. We will be providing the Chapter Handbook, complete with detailed information about our program. We have a very full agenda, but will keep it as short as possible; we will also provide training information and fundraising information. This will also be our first chance for all our Volunteers and families to get to know one another.

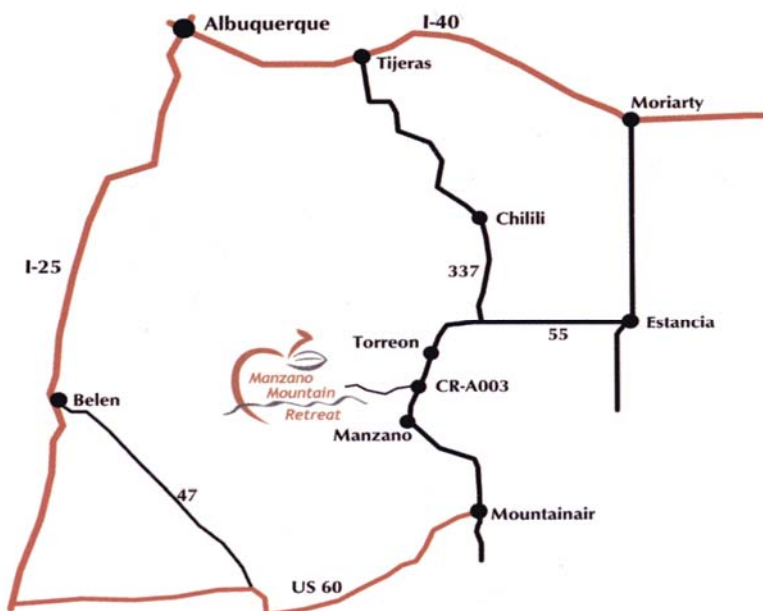
Following is the information for your volunteer's first retreat. Remember, this event is **mandatory** as are all retreats.

We will meet at the Menaul School Cafeteria, just north of the building housing the Auditorium, at 12.15p on Sunday, October 26th.

If you are interested in learning about the Manzano Mountain Retreat visit their link in our website. In case of emergency, parents can contact the Manzano Retreat office at 384-4467. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Dan Shaffer/Roger Waldock
550-4567 573-4663
Retreat Coordinators

Directions to Manzano Mountain Retreat (approx. one hour drive)



From Albuquerque, take I-40 east to Tijeras. Exit and take 337 south. Follow it through Chilili and Torreon. Turn west at CR-A003. The landmark is a row of very tall trees at the turnoff to retreat.

Follow the signs to Manzano Mountain Retreat at the edge of the forest.