

Wed, Sep 2, 2026, 7:27 AM:

Thank you to those who attended the August group meeting! Considering how much we had to go over, I think it was very much needed. I really appreciated having Mike Madden, the president of FOSM, there to provide some orientation to FOSM. He has been an incredible support to us in this transition. I will plan to hold another one of these meetings later in the fall/early winter! Below, I have tried to summarize a few important topics and action items.

Level 1 and Level 2 Docent Training: Based upon current demand, we will be hosting one last Level 1 Docent training. This one will be held on a Saturday to better accommodate folks that can't make it on weekdays. I am working with Dave and Judith to get a final date for this next week. As for the Level 2 docent training, we are still working on the content, but we have been making some good progress and are hoping to finalize this in the next few months. We are trying to be very thoughtful about how this information is compiled and presented. Dave and Judith have been a phenomenal support to us and I can't thank them enough for their help. Anyway, stay tuned!

Museum/Site Tours: Pending the Level 2 Docent training, we will unfortunately not be conducting tours at the site this fall. However, there are two notable exceptions. Ann Ruhnka will be leading a tour with the Oasis group. This is a legacy tour with a small group that Ann is a part of. Similar to some of the earlier tours this spring, it has been on the books for many, many months. Also, Judith and I will be leading a tour for a group from Arizona State Museum in late September.

Museum Door Locks: We have finally ordered the coded locks for the museum and our recreation staff, Kenny, will be replacing the lock on the main door. In order to enter the museum, you will need an individual 4-digit entry code. If you haven't already, please send your preferred code to Leslie (leslie.pratt@usda.gov). We will send out a to this group when the new locks have been installed.

Tijeras Pueblo Trail Signs: Our small exhibits committee has been developing a plan to replace the signs at the museum. We have been reviewing the existing content for accuracy and are hoping to conduct consultation with Isleta Pueblo on the sign content later this fall.

Volunteers Needed: In addition to our regular Friday museum volunteers, we need volunteers for National Public Lands Day (September 26th, 9-1); and over Balloon Fiesta. Leslie sent a detailed email about this last week (8/25/2026). Please get in touch with her if you are available to help out! For those helping out with National Public Lands Day, I will send out a separate email with directions shortly before the event.

Volunteer Hours Reporting: Leslie sent out a detailed message on volunteer hours reporting on 8/25/2026. She included in her last email a tracking sheet that you will need to fill out and submit back to her at the end of each quarter. Please continue to sign-in and out at the front desk (weekdays) and outside at the ramada (weekends). For folks working on weekends, continue to send check/in-out with me via text.

FOSM Meeting/Open House at Tijeras Pueblo: Tijeras Pueblo Museum will be hosting the FOSM Monthly Meeting on **October 6th, 2026 @ 6:00pm**. This will be a great opportunity for non-TPAS FOSM members to come and see the museum and hear about all of the great stuff you guys have

been doing (and maybe we can even recruit some new TPAS volunteers!). Please attend if you are available that evening! It would also be great to have a handful of our folks that have been working at the museum there to help with some of the interpretation stations!

Possible Saturday Events and Winter Book Club?: A handful of our volunteers have brought forward some great ideas for new events/activities. One thought is a possible Saturday Session to host a Kids Crafts Day at the Museum. This would possibly be a Saturday during Balloon Fiesta when we are trying to have staffing at the museum. If you are interested in this, please send an email to Stephanie Long ([REDACTED]) and cc me (sandra.coambs@usda.gov) and Leslie (leslie.pratt@usda.gov). Also, Carol Chorniak had a fabulous idea to perhaps start a Tijeras Pueblo focused book club that would maybe meet during winter months when the museum has closed down for the season. This would give us an opportunity to delve in to the existing literature on Tijeras Pueblo as a team! I love it! 😊 If you are interested in this, please send an email to me (sandra.coambs@usda.gov), Carol ([REDACTED]) and Brittany (brittany.hughes@usda.gov) and we will start compiling a list to see if there is enough interest!

Upcoming events:

- Saturday, September 12th, 8:30-12pm – Nature Journaling Workshop with Barb Marsinton (look for flyer in the next email!)
- Tuesday, September 15th, 1pm – Maxwell Museum Tour of Tijeras Pueblo Collections
- Wednesday, September 16th, 10:30am – Oasis group at Museum
- Thursday, September 17th – The museum will be sprayed for bugs, please avoid this area if you can!
- Saturday, September 26th, 9am-1pm National Public Lands Day Event at Tijeras Pueblo
- Saturday, September 26th, 3-4pm – AZ Museum Tour
- Tuesday, October 6th, 6:30pm – FOSM Meeting at Tijeras Pueblo

Thanks to everyone for all that you do - - each of you has been absolutely amazing. This group has accomplished so much in such a short period of time and it has been a pleasure to see the museum running again. 😊

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