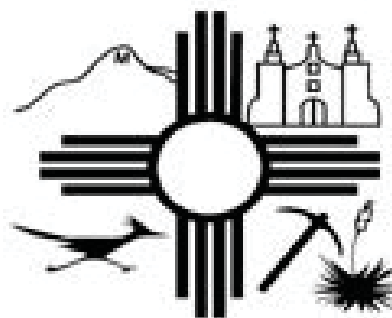


City of Socorro

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Dancing with the Stars in Socorro!

Socorro's Enchanted Skies Star Party starts Wednesday, October 6. It's been an annual event for 17 years but perhaps you've never been. When you're a "local" it's often difficult to justify 3 days off work plus a weekend, but this year you don't have to. This year you can register for just one day if you want. It's a great way to spend some family time—stargazing at Etscorn Campus Observatory with the big telescopes or enjoying the dark, dark skies of El Camino Real Heritage Center with portable (but still sizeable!) telescopes.

This star party is different from others held around the country because of its family focus and the fact that there are things to do during the day as well:

- Wednesday night--field trip to Magdalena Ridge Observatory up on South Baldy. You'll have a tour of the telescope and then an evening with astronomers who will point out galaxies and clusters and planets and red dwarf stars and nebulae—so much more than just stars!
- Thursday: an insider's tour of the Very Large Array AND a tour of the U.S. Air Force's Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance project at White Sands Missile Range where they spend time looking for things (like asteroids!) that come close to the earth.
- Mark "Indy" Kochte, is the keynote speaker Friday night. He has worked on the Hubble Space Telescope project, FUSE (Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer) and is currently working on flybys of Venus and Mercury with MESSENGER.

Each day there are lectures and each night there are opportunities to observe the sky with others.

Employee Anniversaries

Reyes Rosas	20 years
Kristy Padilla	5 years

AND...this year the stars of Socorrofest make an appearance at the same time as the Star Party!

Friday night Socorrofest opens with a street dance. Terrance Simien had the audience out of their seats and dancing in the aisles when he played his zydeco music at the Macey Center several years ago. He's back for Socorrofest, and, unencumbered by seats—or walls—everyone is invited to come dance both Friday and Saturday nights at the Plaza. Remedy will be playing Friday night as well. All day Saturday is a line up of local and regional talent to keep your toes tapping.

Harmonica aficionados will be competing with each other in the second annual harmonica contest on Saturday.

There will be vendors and kids' activities on the Plaza—and more stars! The Star Party folks will have their planetarium set up on Saturday in the Church of the Epiphany (next door to the Socorro Heritage and Visitor Center west of the Plaza): get a free ticket from the booth on the plaza and come see the stars at a planetarium show hourly starting at noon. If that whets your appetite for more, plan to attend the Star Party's Chuckwagon dinner at El Camino Real Heritage Center Saturday night for star gazing, cowboy music, great food and storytelling. If you want a ride, reserve a seat on the City bus for \$5 roundtrip.

Or... see the stars during the day and dance with your friends on the plaza Saturday night.

Questions, call the tourism office at 835-8927.

Who says there's never anything to do in Socorro??

City Council

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez	Nick Fleming
Gordy Hicks	Toby Jaramillo
Donald Monette	Michael Olguin, Jr.
Ernest Pargas, Jr.	Peter D. Romero
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