

New Mexico Journey

The Albuquerque, New Mexico, FF Club knows how to show guests a good time. Our FF club visited Albuquerque from April 24-29. The journey got off to a great start with a welcome dinner in John Farris's home that featured beautiful views of the Sandia Mountains.

The host club didn't waste any time in starting activities. On Monday, April 25, the Iowa visitors were treated to a demonstration of pottery making by visiting talented artist Emma Yeppa in the Jemez Pueblo. Emma's family provided a delicious family style feast



After the meal, the lowans and their hosts made their way to the Sandia Peak Tramway. It only took the tram about 15 minutes to whisk us up to the 10,378-foot peak. The scenery during the ride was breathtaking. Once at the peak, the tram riders had the choice of enjoying the view on the deck with a beverage of their choice or take off for a short hike.



On Tuesday, ambassadors took a trolley tour around and through Albuquerque followed by a walking tour of Old Town with its historic buildings and alleys that brimmed with shops of all kinds.

Local club members and a few day hosts boarded the Railrunner train on Wednesday for a one-hour trip to Santa Fe. The visitors hopped off the train and jumped back on a trolley for a ride around New Mexico's capital city. After the trolley trip, the visitors were treated to a tour of the impressive La Fonda Hotel that dripped with art, historic decorations and offered a gorgeous roof-top view of Santa Fe's market square.



On Thursday, the group headed to the Petroglyph National Monument. Before we headed out to see the rock art, journey leader Judy Frascht-Miner presented a check from our local club in honor of the Albuquerque club. A park ranger accepted it on behalf of the U.S. Park Service.



Everyone, who was up to a decent hike, got to see the amazing, ancient petroglyph art carved into rocks by Native Americans hundreds or perhaps thousands of years ago.





On Friday, we divided into smaller groups and attended the "Gathering of Nations." It was overwhelmingly beautiful. We were fortunate to get seats where we could watch families preparing for the grand march.

It was touching to see a father braiding his daughters hair and donning their regalia. There were 5 or 6 drum circles on each side of the arena. Each one performed before the Grand March. Yes, one was from Iowa. After all the participants had marched in, the entire arena was full of wonderful music, dancing and color.



Thank you to Lenore Pardee, the New Mexico Ambassador Host, all of our home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts and the entire Albuquerque club for planning such a wonderful experience for us.

