



Mescalero, NM

The Area

Explore the mountain world of the Mescalero people. High above the barren New Mexico desert is the cool, pine-forested mountain homeland of the Mescalero Apache. Historically a nomadic group of hunter/gatherers who roamed across the Southwest, the Apache were well-known for their staunch defense of their lands. And thanks to respected warriors like Geronimo and Cochise, their descendants now live on this land sacred to them, surrounded by their four Sacred Mountains.

For years, Group Mission Trips has partnered directly with the Mescalero tribe to serve their respected elders. You and your students will be part of a long-term, sustainable ongoing project to protect the health and safety of people who are looking forward to getting to know you. Like many Native American people, the Mescalero hold a deep respect for their elders—and consider taking care of the elderly to be of the utmost importance. You will be welcome here—everyone on whose home you will be working will have asked specifically for your help.

Our Partner

Our partners are awesome, caring people with whom we at Group work closely with to serve the people of their community while giving you and your kids an unforgettable experience in faith and cultural exchange.

We connect directly with an entity of the Mescalero tribe, with the local people themselves, rather than some outside organization. Our partners work every day to provide safe and decent housing for their neighbors, and this Workcamp is part of a long-term, sustainable, ongoing project to build up the community.



Lodging

Participants will stay in a facility that is *fully air-conditioned with indoor, open and private showers, gender-separate. Participants will be sleeping on the floor, so make sure you bring your air mattresses and bedding!

**Subject to change.*

The Need

Like many Native American people, the Mescalero hold a deep respect for their elders—and consider taking good care of the elderly to be of utmost importance. For that reason, you will most likely be working on the homes of older people.

The repairs your group will be doing are needed to preserve the life of the structures there, as well as provide for the health and safety of the residents. Projects may include building porches, sturdy steps, wheelchair ramps, and painting to protect the siding of homes.

Area Activities

The town of Ruidoso is just off the reservation. It's a delightful little mountain tourist town, with lots of restaurants and unique shops. You can learn more at www.discoverruidoso.com.

Head down the mountain the other way to the larger desert town of Alamogordo and just beyond Alamogordo lies White Sands National Monument—a fascinating world of white sand dunes with some short hiking trails.

Between Mescalero and Alamogordo is the charming small village of Tularosa and just beyond Tularosa are a couple of pistachio farms with shops open to the public—one even offers tours!