Date: November 9, 2026
To: NM MESA Advisors
From: Anita Gonzales, NM MESA Deputy Director
Re: 2027 Senior Incentive Field Trip Information

The Senior Incentive Field Trip for this year has been scheduled for **March 28-April 1, 2027 to Portland, OR and Seattle, WA. Up to 20 Seniors and 2-4 advisor chaperones** from the NM MESA Programs statewide will be selected from the applications received to participate. Please review the agenda prior to application carefully as this trip will be packed with activity. Some notes on this year's trip:

- There will be a portion of physical activity on some days so plan accordingly including walking/standing for longer periods of time and mild hiking.
- Students 18 and over will be required to obtain additional documentation in order to fly to comply with current REAL ID legislation. All other students under 18 are required to have government identification, but NM ID cards will be sufficient.
- Dependent on applicants, this trip is not guaranteed to have both a female and male chaperone.
- Please note, all students will be transported via minivans driven by NM MESA Staff and Chaperones.
- (2) Students from each region will be initially accepted (if they meet minimum requirements for attendance). The remaining attendees will be selected based on individual point scores from a statewide list. NM MESA reserves the right to accept less than 20 students depending upon number and quality of overall applications received.
- The student trip fee is $500 and the advisor fee is $350. In addition, there are some meals that will need to be paid on your own and possibly any checked luggage fees (App $45/bag/each way).

Please note that nearly everything for this event will be distributed, submitted, and or is available electronically so it is EXTREMELY important that you understand the current procedures for applying to attend this amazing field trip. In addition, make sure applicants use an email that is accessed regularly as all correspondence will be done via email. All applicants are responsible for obtaining all documentation required to fly and participate in the trip as requested.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ALL Applications are due ***Monday, December 7 at 5 PM***. This includes submittal of transcripts and electronic completion. No exceptions will be made. See below for requirements.
- December 14, 2026: Trip selection notices sent via email.
- January 14-16, 2027: Mandatory participant/guardian meetings.
  - January 14: 6PM, January 15: 4PM, January 16: 10AM
- DEADLINE 1, February 1, 2027: Attendance Contract, 1st Half of Payment, and Initial Paperwork DUE to NM MESA Main Office.
- DEADLINE 2, March 1, 2027: Final Payment and Paperwork DUE to NM MESA Main Office.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

- A complete student application includes online application completion (including short answers), uploaded letter of recommendation, and upload of required grade reports. Required grade reports include a copy of the student's transcript, a copy of the most recent grade report (if not included on the transcript), and any college transcripts or grade reports as needed for math, science, and/or English courses.
- Incomplete or late applications will **not be considered**. There is a very short turnaround time for grading. All applications need to be fully complete, and transcripts submitted by the deadline.
- Applicants must be active NM MESA members in good standing during Senior and one other year to qualify.
- All applicants must meet a minimum point score of 55 on application to be eligible for trip.
- Each participant selected will be required to make a non-refundable payment of $500.00.

- Parent Meetings will be conducted via on-line Webinar sessions. Details to come later.
- Additional students who qualify will be placed on a statewide waiting list.

ADVISOR INFORMATION:

- A complete advisor application includes online application completion and upload of a letter of support/approval from a school administrator to attend the trip if selected.
- Up to (4) advisors will be chosen from the statewide program. Middle and High School advisors are encouraged to apply.
- Please note, any advisors selected for this trip will be expected to physically participate in group activities and assist with driving requirements.
- If we do not receive enough teacher applications, any school sending five (5) or more students on the SIFT trip may be required to provide an advisor chaperone. Failure to do so can result in some of your students from your school program being removed from the trip to be under the five (5) student requirement. Please plan in advance to attend if you have a large number of accepted students.
- However, if enough teacher advisors apply, we will not require teachers with large attendees to attend, but will select from the entire application pool. Selections are made in an effort to diversify our chaperones considering region, gender, MESA experience, and Regional Coordinator recommendation.
- Each advisor selected as a Chaperone will be required to make a non-refundable deposit of $350.00.

REGISTRATION PROCESS AND ONLINE EVENT SITE:

- Please visit the NM MESA Website: http://www.nmmesa.org; Events, Upcoming Events, and Senior Incentive Field Trip. This is the event website with all information related to this trip. This is public information so parents can be referred to here for all information about the trip. This event website will become increasingly more important as EVERYTHING trip related will be posted here: final agendas, contact information, room lists, flight information, lodging information, parent information, etc.
- Registration will need to be completed by EACH APPLICANT (student or advisor) creating one (1) registration per applicant. Each application will need a unique email.
- On Line Registration will collect all needed information as follows:
    - Student Information:
        - All the information that is on the current A-4 Application.
        - Students will need to answer the short answer questions as detailed in the A-4.
        - Students will need the following information saved to be ready to upload: teacher recommendation and all required grade reports.
        - Students will need their advisors' name and email as well as a current personal email. All correspondence will be sent via email. Make sure that all email accounts allow nmmesa.org emails, specifically anita@nmmesa.org.
            - When entering information, instruct students to enter the advisor email as the cc email. This will allow the advisor to get the same notifications the student is receiving.
        - Students will need to know their correct NM MESA Region. If you do not know, ask your Regional Coordinator.
    - Advisor Information:
        - Advisor application will collect basic contact data and information in the advisor application.
        - Questions will be asked pertaining to your recent MESA programs and why you want to be a chaperone on the SIFT Trip.
        - Upload of a letter of support/approval from a school administrator.

If you have any questions about the trip or the application/selection process, please call Anita Gonzales, at 505-454-3027 or 505-718-9517, or you can email anita@nmmesa.org.
Thank you for your assistance and interest in this event!