



Center of
Southwest Culture

STORY



Bicis. Bosque. Belonging.

WWW.STORYRIDERS.ORG

Parent/Student Handbook

Story Riders

at

Casa Barelás

1024 4th St. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102

Contact Information

Should you need to contact us during a ride, please call Program Manager Marco Sandoval at the number provided below.

Bike Shop:	(505) 200-9907 (calls are forwarded to Program Manager's cell phone)
Marco cell:	(505) 712-8594 (Text messages accepted at this number)
Casa Barelás:	1024 4 th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Program Manager email:	marco@centerofsouthwestculture.org
Program Coordinator email:	leila@centerofsouthwestculture.org
Website:	www.centerofsouthwestculture.org/storyriders

Center of Southwest Culture Mission Statement

Developing healthy Indigenous and Latino communities through economic development and educational and cultural work.

Story Riders Mission Statement

To develop the whole child using culture-and-place-based encounters, bicycle-riding, and opportunities to spend time in nature.

What is Story Riders

Students ride bikes to and learn about the Bosque, learn to interview community elders, and learn how to maintain their bicycles. SR seeks to engage children in dialog and critical thinking about their place in the world through positive, meaningful interactions that explore such themes as identity, sustainability, and place-based values.

In SR, students receive training in bicycle safety, learn to routinely check and perform basic maintenance on their bike, and learn to cycle. Every day thereafter, we ride. Students spend most of their time in the Bosque where they experience and learn about the plants and animals, the riparian ecosystem and how the Rio Grande is used today.

Overall, SR aims to plant the seeds of critical thinking and self-awareness in children by connecting them to nature, human relationships, and physical health.

What to Bring

- *Water bottle*
- *Close-toed shoes*
- *Backpack*
- *Snacks such as granola bar, fruit, fruit snacks, etc. We will also have snacks available should students need some.*

Story Riders provides HELMETS AND BICYCLES which the student will take home at the completion of the program if they wish to do so.

Schedule:

Schedule is subject to change as dates are added throughout the year. Please check back often to see new offerings! Visit www.centerofsouthwestculture.org/storyriders for current offerings.

Student Pickup

Students must be picked up at the designated pick-up time and signed out every day of the program by an authorized person (designated on registration form). Please plan to initially show a photo ID at the first pick-up, if requested. If students are not picked up, we will call parents. If for some reason you cannot pick up your child on time, please call Program Manager Marco Sandoval (505-712-8594).

Attendance

It is required that students attend all sessions because every session builds upon the last. Of course, we do understand that children get ill. If a child misses more than 1 session, parents will be contacted to discuss the child's continued participation in the program.

Session Cancelations and Inclement Weather

Story Riders can be canceled due to inclement weather, in which case parents will be notified via phone call.

Imperfect weather does not prohibit students from riding. In fact, Story Riders encourages experiencing the range of diverse weather that occurs in our state. An objective of the program is to foster a familiarity with nature in all its wondrous forms. Please keep in mind that students must be adequately clothed for riding.

In case of drastic weather changes we will take all necessary precautions to keep students and staff safe.

Staff

Marco Sandoval directs the Center's Story Riders program, and assists in program development, implementation and translation for the Center's other projects. As a child he spent his time with family in Chihuahua, Mexico, northern New Mexico, and La Plaza Vieja de Albuquerque, which fostered an appreciation for his mestizo heritage. Having developed a reverence for his mixed culture and a deep connection to place, he saw the need for a program that does the same for children in a world that increasingly values cultural homogenization and natural and human exploitation. Marco has worked as a bilingual educator and mentor to children and youth for more than ten years in various programs and institutions in Albuquerque. Marco is a musician and enjoys spending time with his two children, two cats, his dog, and being outside.

Leila Sonora Murrieta is the project coordinator for CSC's Story Riders program. Murrieta was born and raised in Tucson, AZ and moved to Albuquerque to get her BA in Studio Art and Chicano Studies from the University of New Mexico. Murrieta directly supports youth in the community by providing a safe learning environment that fosters confidence and independence. Leila has worked as a bilingual educator and bicycle educator for over ten years in various programs in Tucson and Albuquerque. Murrieta believes that the bicycle is a liberating tool for everyone, provides opportunities for cultivating community and building strong relationships with those around you.

Dakota Vigil is the Coach and Lead Mechanic for Story Riders. Born to a farmer father and accountant mother, Dakota spent her youth learning and growing throughout Northern New Mexico. She has a BS in Biochemistry and BA in Economics both obtained from the University of New Mexico. Throughout her childhood and into adult years, Dakota developed a deep love for New Mexico and her heritage. She is passionate about community organization and sustainable agriculture and strives to connect these two in meaningful ways through bicycles and education. In her free time she enjoys connecting with other humans, riding anything with two wheels, building stuff, farming, snowboarding, or walking her sweet doggo, Mina.

Appropriate Attire

Story Riders will spend most of its time outdoors and in the Bosque. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather and for conditions in the Bosque. Such conditions include but are not limited to:

- *Lots of dirt*
- *Mud*
- *Branches where clothes could get snagged.*
- *Low hanging branches where exposed skin could get scratched.*
- *Heat*
- *Cold*
- *Rain*

Please be aware that it is extremely likely that your child will get dirty in this program. This includes muddy shoes.

Students are encouraged to wear comfortable, fitted clothing that allows them to move freely. Students are welcome to bring a Story-Riders-appropriate change of clothes to the program.

Disclosure of liability insurance coverage

Participation in Story Riders requires the signing of a liability waiver and assumption of any medical costs incurred due to participation in the program. Story Riders and the Center of Southwest Culture holds General Liability Insurance.

Disenrollment Procedures

If you wish to disenroll your child from Story Riders, please inform the Program Manager.

Policies and Procedures for Expulsion of Children

Students are expected to adhere to the Story Riders rules as set forth on the first day of the program. Students who exhibit behavior that creates an unsafe environment for themselves or for others will be redirected and given verbal warnings. If the behavior continues, the student will receive a written warning which will be logged and parents will be informed. A plan will be devised between Story Riders staff and parents to ensure the child's continued participation in the program. If a child accrues 3 written warnings, the child will be expelled from the program.

Fee payment procedures

This program is grant-funded. There is no fee to participate in the program. If you wish to make a financial donation to the program, please visit www.centerofsouthwestculture.org and click on the "DONATE" button. We also accept bicycle donations. Please consider donating any bike(s) or bike-related items that no longer have use at your home to us. Every bicycle donated ensures that we can continue offering refurbished bikes to our community.

Notification of Absence

Please inform the Program Manager if your child will be absent from the program. A text message to (505) 712-8594 is sufficient or call (505) 200-9907.

Emergency Procedures, Safety Policies, and Disaster Preparedness Plan

The Story Riders program will take place outdoors 100% of the time, except in the event of an unforeseen storm or other potentially dangerous circumstance, in which case we will take shelter at Casa Barelas.

In the event we need to evacuate Casa Barelas we have two alternative locations to congregate.

- Box Road Antiques, 1101 4th St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
- The (B) Ruppe, 807 4th St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Program staff will contact parents to notify them if we are at an alternate location.

To ensure safety as we ride, Story Riders staff positions themselves at the front and at the back of our line to ensure that we can see all the children and any potential hazards to our group. Story Riders always rides with two staff members. Staff directs children away from all hazards. If conditions do not allow for a safe ride, we will return to Casa Barelas to await parents. In case of an emergency, Story Riders staff will call emergency services before contacting parents. Story Riders staff always checks the weather the day of our rides to ensure that we will not be caught in unfavorable conditions far from Casa Barelas, however, weather predictions can be incorrect. If we are caught in dangerous conditions (high winds, lightning, hail) we will seek out shelter and inform parents if we will be late getting back to Casa Barelas.

Confidentiality Policy

Any information provided to the program about your child, including the registration packet, is considered confidential and is treated as such.

Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting Procedure

If child abuse/neglect is reasonably suspected, Story Riders staff is obligated by law to report the matter immediately to CYFD's Statewide Central Intake child abuse hotline.

To report a reasonable suspicion of child abuse, please call CYFD's Statewide Central Intake child abuse hotline at 1-888-333-7233

Thank you for taking the time to read the Parent Student Handbook!