

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2014

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**Spirit of the Mountain Runners hold day of prayer and celebration at Oak Flat
as part of the Mount Graham Sacred Run**

WHAT The Spirit of the Mountain Runners begin their 23rd annual Mount Graham sacred run Friday, July 18th at the top of Mount Graham. The run will pass through the towns of Safford, Thatcher, Bylas, Globe, and Miami and end up at Oak Flat Campground late Friday afternoon.

Saturday, July 19, will be a day of prayer, ceremony, and celebration of the sacredness and importance of Oak Flat and Mount Graham. This event is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

WHEN Sacred Run Friday, July 18, 2014 All day (4:30 AM – 6:00 PM)
Due to the nature of the run, precise scheduling is not possible.
For updates on the progress of the runners, follow us on
Twitter @Save_Oak_Flat.

Celebration at Oak Flat Saturday, July 19, 2014 All day
8:00 Morning Blessing and Ceremony
11:00 Tribal leaders speak
12:00 Lunch
1:30 Speakers from all walks of life
4:00 Church service by Emmanuel Baptist Church Rev.
Mendez from Winston Salem, NC
7:30 Social dancing

WHERE Oak Flat Campground (4 miles east of Superior, Arizona off of Highway 60 on Magma Mine Road)

The sacred run will begin at the top of Mount Graham Friday at 4:30 AM. (Follow Highway 191 to Safford, then Highway 70 to Globe, then Highway 60 to Oak Flat Campground.) The estimated time of arrival at Oak Flat is 6:00 PM.

Great Visuals and interview opportunities
Additional background available

Progress updates on the run available on Twitter @Save_Oak_Flat

Mount Graham Sacred Run

July 16-20, 2014



Wednesday, July 16: 9a.m. travel from San Carlos to Mt. Graham. Set up camp and build Sweat Lodge for the evening sweat

Thursday, July 17: In the morning, Holy ground prayers and 32 songs/blessing the staff, then hiking to the top of Mt. Graham (Dzil Nchaa Sian) to gather stones and retrieving the holy water

Friday, July 18: Mt. Graham Sacred Run 2014 starts at 5 a.m. in the morning from the Top of Mt. Graham to San Carlos then to Oak Flats. Should reach Oak Flat by evening.

Saturday, July 19: 8 a.m. Morning blessing done by Mt. Graham Sacred Runners. Lunch at noon. Speakers from 2-4 p.m. Church service by Emmanuel Baptist Church Rev. John Mendez of Winston Salem, NC. 7:30 p.m. Apache Social Songs.

Sunday, July 20: 7:30 a.m. Breakfast—8:30 a.m. Holy Ground Blessing. Everyone Departs.

"I really have appreciated all these years of your contribution in keeping the struggle alive. If it was not for your spiritual participation, many of our ancestral homelands and holy sites would be lost. Our responsibility is to provide our children with truth of our history, good or bad, for they will encounter greater obstacles that will challenge their identity and religious beliefs. Usen (the Creator) created all Spirits that walk the Earth and those rooted to Mother Earth were also given the right to embrace life. We must not fail in keeping the blessed gift alive. Those who destroy or don't believe may assume they are winning here, but they are actually losing. Let us give thanks to all those who have gone before us, as well as those who we have lost recently. I pray that Usen gives us the strength, knowledge, and wisdom to educate those that fail to recognize the Spirit of life. May Usen bless us all." ~Wendsler Nosie Sr.

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR CAMPING GEAR, JACKETS, CHAIRS, AND SLEEPING BAGS. YOU ARE WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE, ALL IS APPRECIATED. WENDSLER NOSIE SR. CAN BE CONTACTED AT (W) 928-475-2930 (H) 928-475-6751 (M) 928-200-5045 (EMAIL) apaches4ss@yahoo.com