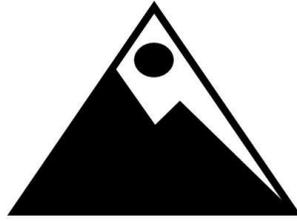


Outdoor



Loyalty

La Piedra Trail System- Santa Fe's Gift to The Outdoor Industry



"Climb the mountains and get their glad tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as the sunshine flows into the trees. The winds blow their freshness into you and the storms their energy while "cares" drop away like the leaves of Autumn." John Muir

The Piedra Unified Trail System resides in and around Santa Fe, New Mexico and was completed, in an organic process, in 2012. Before we venture into the Collaborative Development of this highly regarded trail system, tagged with the moniker "City to the Sky", let's look at the rich history of this wonderful Jeweled City.

(1050-1607) Santa Fe was occupied by the Pueblo Indian Culture consisting mostly of the Tewa People. During this time the Pueblo Indians were a Hunter, Gatherer and Farming Culture. They defined and developed a trail system with all the characteristics to survive and prosper. The trails proliferated in the surroundings between the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the East and the Jemez Mountains to the West. Between these magnificent mountain ranges the spectacular Rio Grande Valley was where their villages resided and the trails began. The rivers that flowed in and around these villages were the Rio Grand River (north to south) from the Jemez Mountains, the Pecos River (north to south) from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Santa Fe River (east to west) also from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The trails from the villages were plentiful along these rivers and connected to the mountain trails. The 600 years of sedentary existence (unique to the Southwest Native American Cultures) highlights the bountiful and protective nature of the Pueblo Indian Culture in the Rio Grande Valley.

(1607-1692) Spanish Soldiers and Officers as well as Franciscan Missionaries tried to conquer and convert the indigenous population. Through several encounters, the Pueblo Indians were conquered and assimilated into the evolving diverse culture in Santa Fe.

(1692-1821) Santa Fe grew and prospered as a city. The hunting and gathering trail system was preserved and further developed. There thrived a very diverse culture which had as its core value a "peaceful co-existence".

(1821-1846) Santa Fe became the capital of the Province of New Mexico. During this time, the Old Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe was developed as a International Commercial Highway for Mexican and American Traders.

Fast Forward to the 21st Century and one of the most comprehensive unified trail systems in the country. La Piedra Trail System, has become the Outdoor Industries target vision towards breaking down the barriers standing in the way of connecting three quarters of the American Population to the Outdoor Experience. This includes both urban and wilderness environments in nature, for all to enjoy. As with the Pueblo Indians, the desire to explore and experience ones surroundings is in our DNA. Trails, in all their varied applications, not only navigates Outdoor Enthusiasts to parts untracked, but also leads them to other Outdoorists for engagement and enjoyment on a outdoor social level.



The La Piedra Unified Trail System came to the forefront as a concept around 2008 with the goal for Santa Fe's existing trail systems to be unified under the umbrella of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and came to fruition in 2012. The Recreational Trail System, that became the La Piedra Trail system, consisted of



several unique trail systems surrounding Santa Fe and into the mountains that "frame" the Rio Grande Valley. The vision of a Grand Unified Trail System (GUTS) was initially presented to the Trust by The Santa Fe Fat Tire Society which is a local chapter of The International Mountain Biking Association. The technical assistance came from the National Park Service's for Rivers, Trails and Conservation and featuring a legion of volunteers from the Santa Fe Area. This coalition envisioned inclusivity for hikers, bikers, equestrians, public health partners, local and federal land managers and private landowners. This unified trail system has become a community process where these private and public partners are universally engaged to Plan, Prioritize and Implement these plans to create a "circle" around Santa Fe accessing this trail network from any given point within and around Santa Fe. A secondary vision is to overlay the La Piedra Trail System with the historic alignments of the renowned El Camino, Santa Fe and Old Spanish Trails.

OutdoorLoyalty.com acknowledges the commitment to promote Health, Wellness, Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability, Outdoor Youth Activities and the multitude of Volunteerists who should be recognized by the Outdoor Industry by showing their gratitude and recognition and rewarding them with "Points for Participation" as well as a standing ovation for the outreach and giving forward to all of us and future generations.

Below is a great article in OIA's archives on unified trail systems across America.

<https://outdoorindustry.org/press-release/eight-trail-projects-receive-2013-grants-from-the-national-trails-fund/>

Remember our tagline: Reward...Outdoor...Activities www.outdoorloyalty.com

Contact: jack@outdoorloyalty.com