

This year Mt. Graham Sacred Run for 2020 will definitely be different due to the Coronavirus. We will be working and following the CDC recommendation for the safety of everyone.

Procedures to be followed will be:

The Mt. Graham Spirit of the Mountain Runners / Apache Stronghold will put out a Public Notice stating the following: Thank you to all runners, walkers, cooks, parents and grandparents, support groups and our Holy people who have supported the Run for the past 28 years of our long journey back to our holy mountain, Mt Graham. It saddens me to inform you, that due to the Coronavirus this year, we will be taking every precaution to provide safety to this year's spiritual journey. Your health and spirit is very important to us all. You are all my family and as a brother to you all, I don't want anyone getting sick from this virus. This Virus has no conscience and will do great harm, at will, if we are not vigilant. For this reason, we all must make the decision to do what is best and knowing that we once again overcome obstacles that always seems to try to stop us from our religious practice since time immemorial. Staying within the safety measures I and my granddaughters who have been with me since the beginning of the pandemic will accompany me on this year's run to Mt. Graham. We will retrieve the water from the top of the mountain as well as other medicines needed. I am also asking, from deep within my heart, for you to continue to pray for us, do a run or walk in your area on Friday, and please say prayers on Saturday morning as we journey to the summit. This will keep us all spiritual connected as we fight this evil.

The above will be our public notice.

There will be up no more than 20 runners per our strategy. At this time, we believe 15 runners, alternating turns, will be able to complete the distance. There will be no gathering in groups of 10.

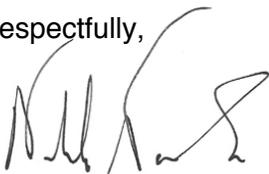
There will be 5 vehicles, which will transport only their family members, who are the runners. These individuals have been together before and during the outbreak of the virus are currently healthy. Everyone will agree to work together by staying apart more than 6ft or more, wearing a mask, wearing gloves, use of sanitizers, and water available to wash hands at each stop, and camping a distance from each other. We will take everyone's temperature prior and during the run, to be sure no one has any COVID symptoms. We will make every effort to ensure everyone's safety.

A prayer staff with a blessed feather, will be made for each vehicle to ensure that exchange of the staff will not be necessary between the runners. Runners will keep their own sacred items and doing their prayers separately, we will not congregate as we normally have in past years, due to this pandemic.

Runners bringing the items for our lost ones( those who have passed on during the year) to place on the summit, please keep the items on your person and be sure you bring your water containers and any water for the journey to the top.

The Runners will reach Mt. Graham on Friday July 24, 2020 and plan to deaprt from the Mountain on Sunday July 26th. We thank you in advance for the Annual Mt. Graham Sacred Run for July 2020 for your support to assure our religious ways continue for the future.

Respectfully,



Wendsler Nosie Sr.

CC: San Carlos Apache Chairman, San Carlos Apache Vice Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribal Council, Attorney General, Historic Preservation & Archaeology Department, Safford Ranger District Supervisor  
George Garcia