

## **Santa Fe Mountain Center Annual Report 2016**

We recently received this article which was included in the **Santa Fe Mountain Center's** (SFMC) Annual Report 2016. Our association with **SFMC** goes back to the late 1980's when we held strategic talks with some of the Center's staff regarding programs for Native youth in northern New Mexico. In 2009 we joined two Native American staff members — Ian Sanderson (Mohawk Nation) and Randall Charles (Oneida Nation) — to present a tracking camp for the **Native American Emergence Program** here in New Mexico.

Randall and Ian then took part in our **Art of Seeing** course, followed by our intensive adult course, **Tracking in the Southwest**. Their enthusiasm for the teachings they received in these courses was passed on to Program Directors Tony Dixon and Misty Blakesley, who then joined us for several courses. From 2012 - 2014, all four of these staff members took part in **Nurturing the Roots / New Mexico, The Tracking Project's** community mentor program ( <http://www.thetrackingproject.org/ttp/nurturing-the-roots/nurturing-roots-new-mexico/>) and graduated from the program.

In August 2016, TTP staff members conducted a retreat for the Mountain Center's staff which was very well-received. We are grateful for our long-term friendship with **SFMC**, Tony, Misty, Ian, Randall and all our other friends at the Center. We look forward to our next adventures.

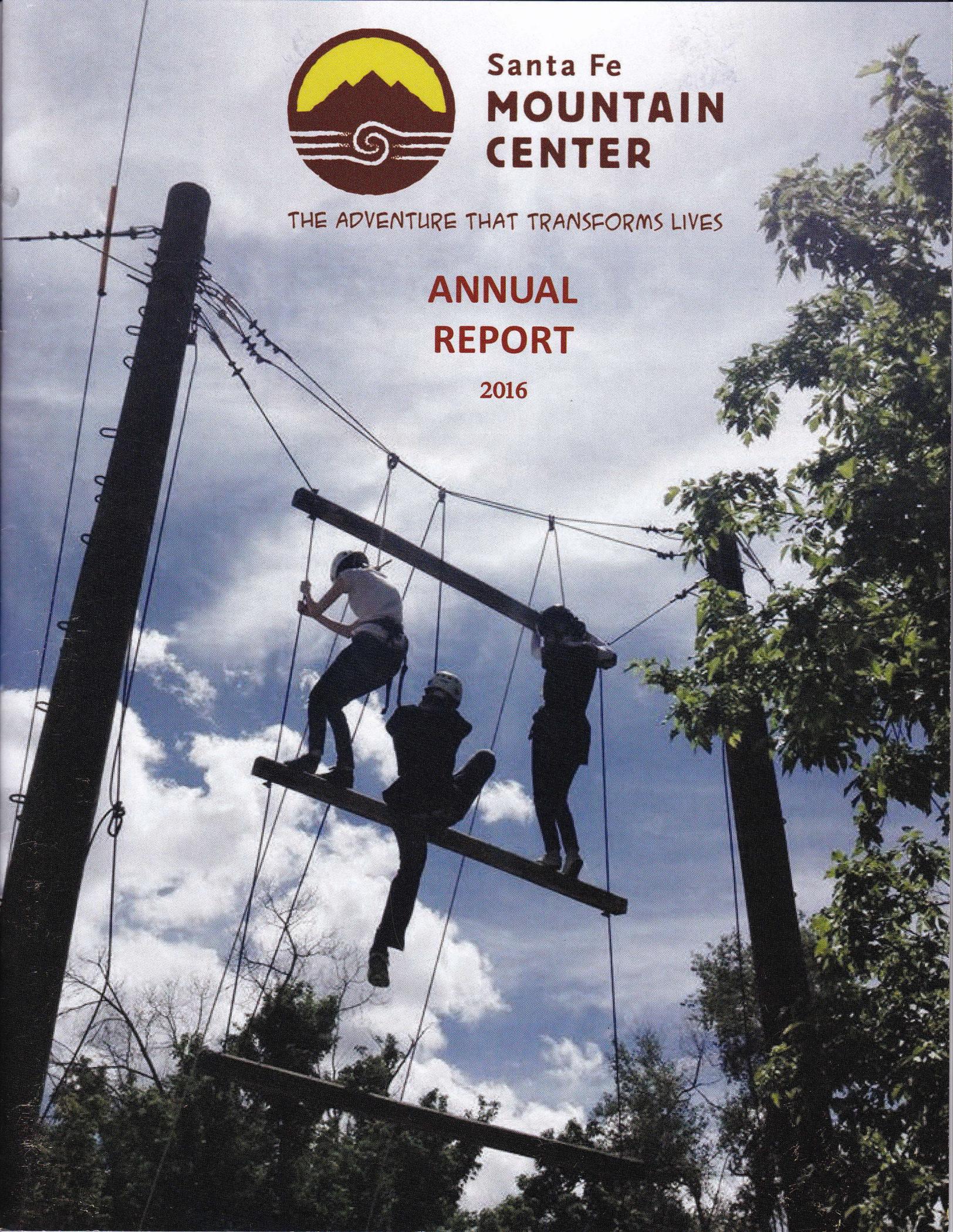


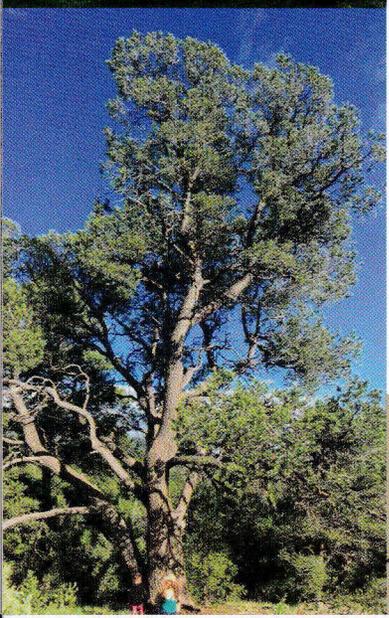
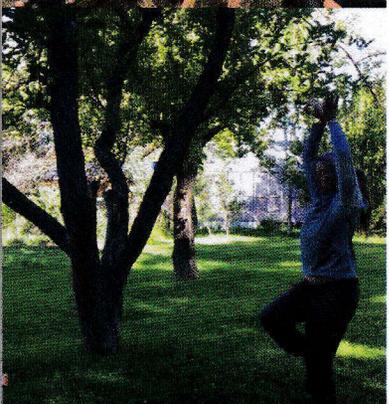
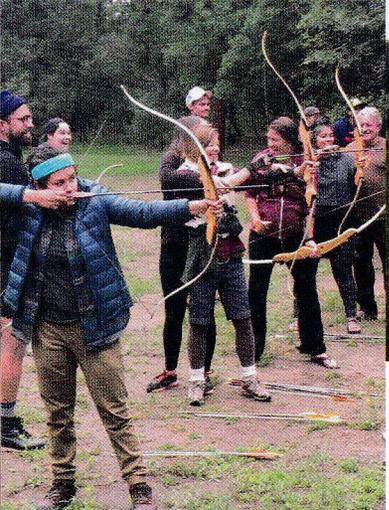
Santa Fe  
**MOUNTAIN  
CENTER**

THE ADVENTURE THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

2016





## In Thanks As One

The staff at the Santa Fe Mountain Center had the good fortune of training with The Tracking Project, a non-profit organization founded in 1986 by John Stokes, that has worked with community educators and Native elders from around the world. These trainings are designed to connect individuals directly to the natural world.

This program of natural and cultural awareness includes a wide range of skills—from traditional tracking and survival skills to music, storytelling, dance, peace-making and martial arts training. This indigenous model of teaching reflects the experiential education and therapeutic adventure models on which the work at the Santa Fe Mountain Center is based. What a great homecoming for our staff—to renew, heal, grow and share with our communities. Thank you, Santa Fe Mountain Center leadership team, and its supporters, for giving us this opportunity!

The curriculum that John and his staff offer is based on the Iroquois words of Thanksgiving, an offering of appreciation to all of existence for its vital and integral importance. To the Iroquois, these words should be said first thing in the morning, before meetings, or before any important decision making to put each of us in the good mind, a mind that is open, aware and concerned about the well-being of all.

It starts by thanking the people of the world and then “walks up the ladder” to our mother earth, who provides everything we have, the waters, creatures of the waters, insects, plants, animals, trees, birds, winds, thunder beings, moon, sun, stars, enlightened teachers, guardians and creator, however you experience them to be. At the end of these important words space is provided to thank anything that may have been accidentally forgotten or is still unknown.

With that, the staff and board of Santa Fe Mountain Center takes time now to appreciate all things we may have forgotten. It was not our intention to leave anything out of this annual report. To you we give thanks and greetings. And now our minds are one.

Misty Blakesley  
Therapeutic Adventure Program Manager



# THE TRACKING PROJECT

“bringing the pieces together again”