

The J. Paul Taylor Academy and NMSU CAMP Student Council Art Collaborative

Honoring Farmworkers Project



HISTORY

In 2005, the College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University (NMSU) established the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium, which annually assembles community members, scholars, and experts to discuss a variety of social justice issues affecting New Mexico and our borderlands region.

Each symposium has generated local, national and transnational attention addressing themes as varied as Incarcerated Parents and Youth, Mental Health Issues, Environmental Issues, Justice for LGBTQ communities, Justice Beyond Walls and Borders, and Justice for Immigrants and Native Peoples, to name a few.

The 16th Annual J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium will take place virtually the week of March 28-April 2, 2021, during Farmworker Awareness Week. The upcoming symposium theme is “Justice for Farmworkers” which will center on questions of social justice pertaining to essential farmworkers in our border region during these most uncertain times, as they continue to sustain our communities with their labor.

The J. Paul Taylor Academy and NMSU CAMP Student Council Art Exhibit

In 2020, J. Paul Taylor Academy middle schoolers worked with the NMSU CAMP Student Council leaders and advisors to explore the realities of farmworkers in our community.

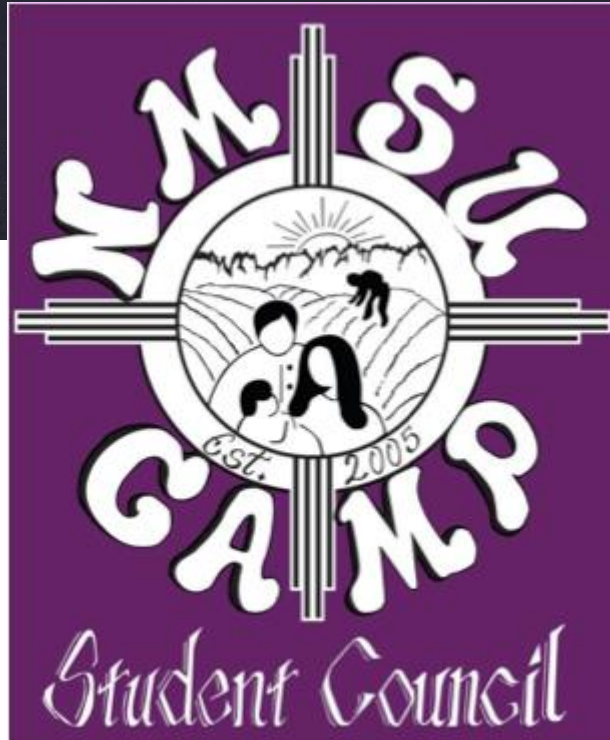
JPTA's 6th, 7th and 8th graders watched documentaries that offered firsthand accounts of farm labor from local farmworkers. Students learned what a day in the life of farmworkers looks like in southern New Mexico and El Paso. Many students were surprised to discover that farm work is done in our own communities and noted that it often goes unseen, unnoticed, or unappreciated by the public.

NMSU CAMP student leaders helped JPTA students unpack these topics through in-class visits and workshops that included their own firsthand accounts, photos and stories, and vital historical context. CAMP leaders also created opportunities for artistic exploration, inviting JPTA students to cultivate empathy, deepen their understanding of agricultural labor, and develop respect for farmworkers and the important work they do.



J. PAUL TAYLOR ACADEMY

Recapturing the Joy of Learning - Recapturar la Alegria de Aprender



Honoring Farmworkers Through Art

The intended purpose of the project was to create a physical art exhibit to showcase during the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium scheduled for April 2, 2020, at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum.

The collaboration between the NMSU CAMP Student Council and the J. Paul Taylor Academy students consisted of an activity where students drew themselves as farmworkers, drew the types of crops harvested in the region, and wrote a personal message to a farmworker. With these art pieces, students were planning on building a **3-D art exhibit** at the J. Paul Taylor Symposium.

Once the symposium would have ended, the art pieces with the written messages would have been delivered to farmworkers during CAMP outreach visits in Southern New Mexico.

The images in this presentation are what the JPTA students created during the in-person class visits.

Honoring Farmworkers Through Art

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were unable to complete the art exhibit.

The following presentation shares the details of the art collaborative between JPTA and NMSU CAMP. It also includes a call to action for the reader to help us complete the project. Please read through to learn more.

In addition, this presentation includes images captured by NMSU CAMP Leaders during outreach visits in 2020, as well as pictures of a special meeting with Mr. J. Paul Taylor himself.

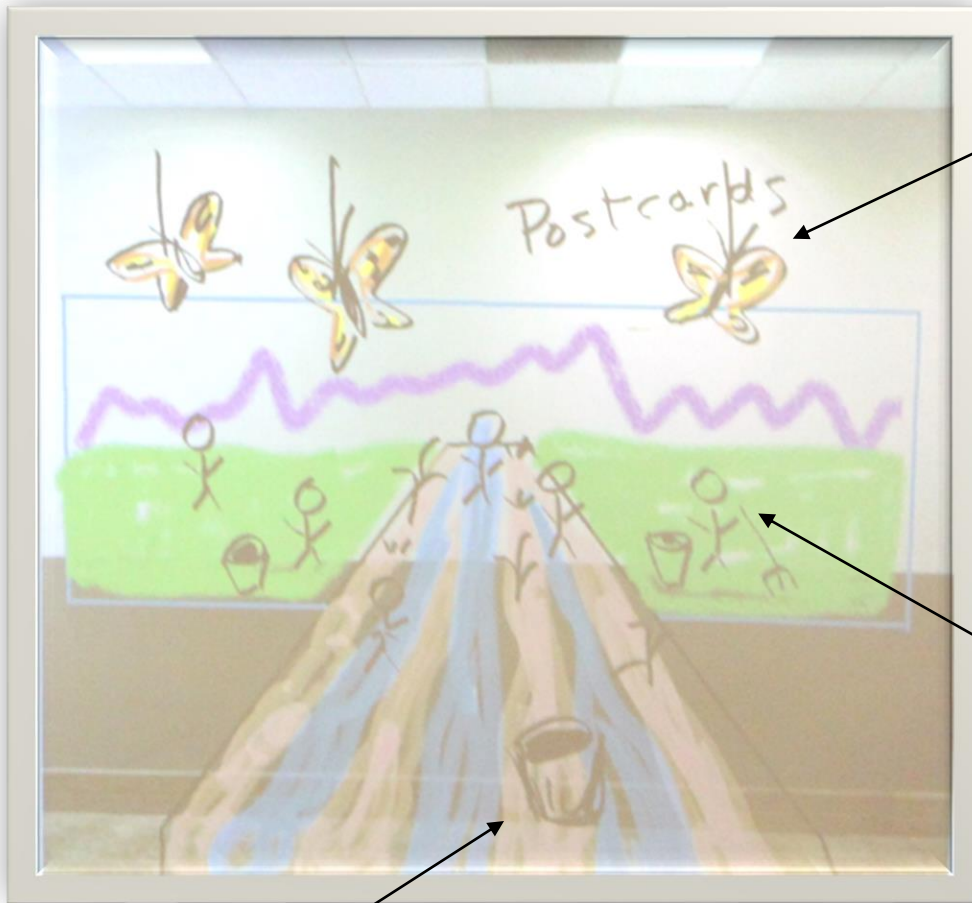


Capturing a field backdrop image of a lettuce field for the art project, September 2020

Las Cruces, New Mexico
Photo credit: Ricardo Trejo

The Plan: Honoring Farmworkers Through Art

3-D Artwork Draft



Personal message written to a farmworker in a butterfly shaped postcard.

Student's cut out drawing of themselves as farmworkers.

Drawings of tools and agricultural crops.

Lesson Plans

During the month of March 2020, NMSU CAMP Student Council leaders collaborated with Ms. Kannard, former art teacher at the J. Paul Taylor Academy, and her 6th – 8th graders. CAMP leaders presented on farmworker issues and created art exhibit pieces with students. Below are the lesson plans and workshops presented:

1. Importance of Farmworkers, March 5th
2. Farmworker's PPE, March 10th
3. Agricultural Crops, March 12th
4. The Butterfly Project, March 17th*

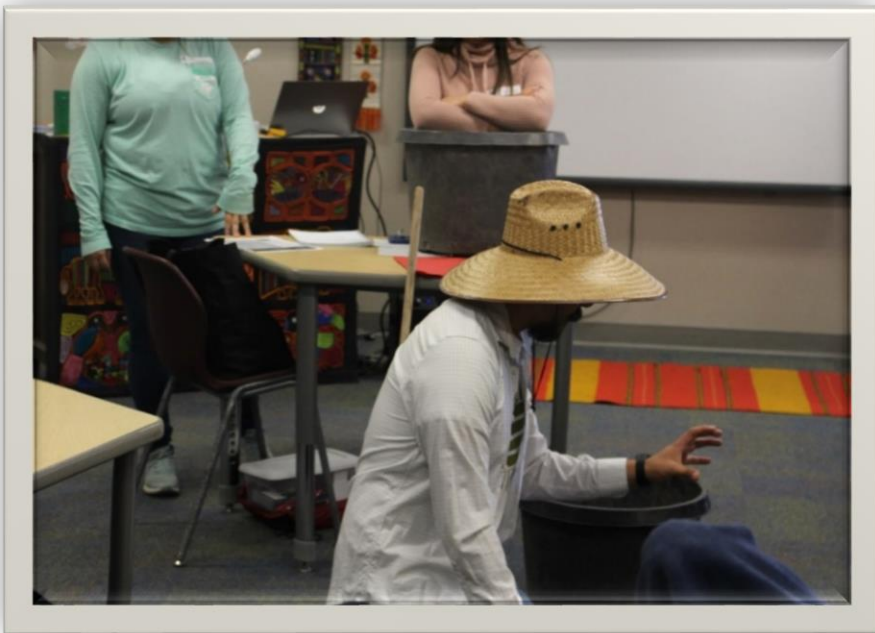
*Postponed due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Lesson Plan 1: Importance of Farmworkers

The main objective of the day was to teach students about the importance of farmworker issues, the Bracero Program, farmworker movements in the United States, including César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, and sharing statistics about farm work in the United States.



NMSU CAMP students presenting to the J. Paul Taylor Academy students.



Demonstrating to JPTA students a few examples of the physicality of harvesting crops using tools like buckets and short handled hoes.



Capturing the physicality of harvesting red onion, June 2020

Mesquite, New Mexico

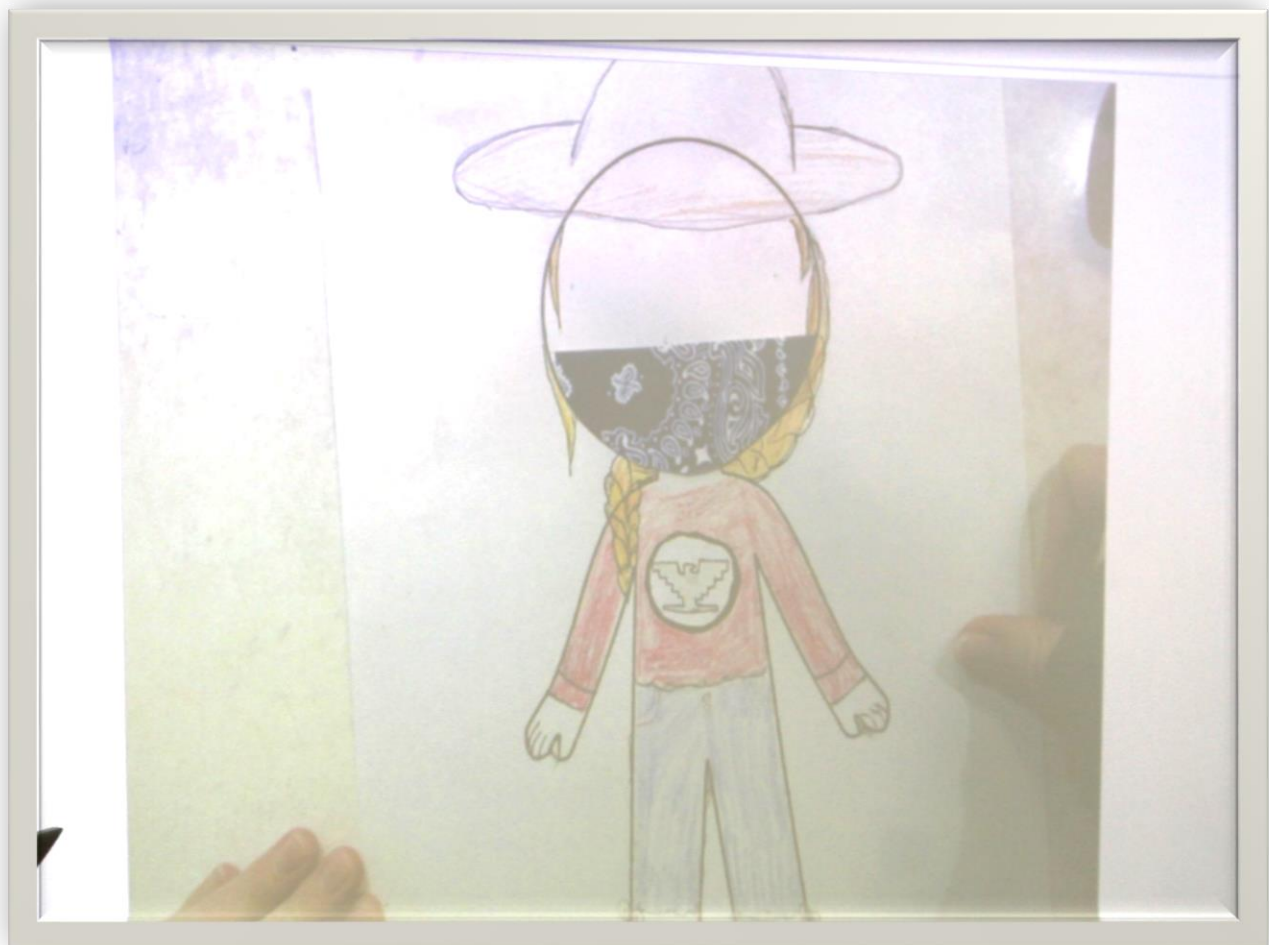
Photo credit: Ricardo Trejo

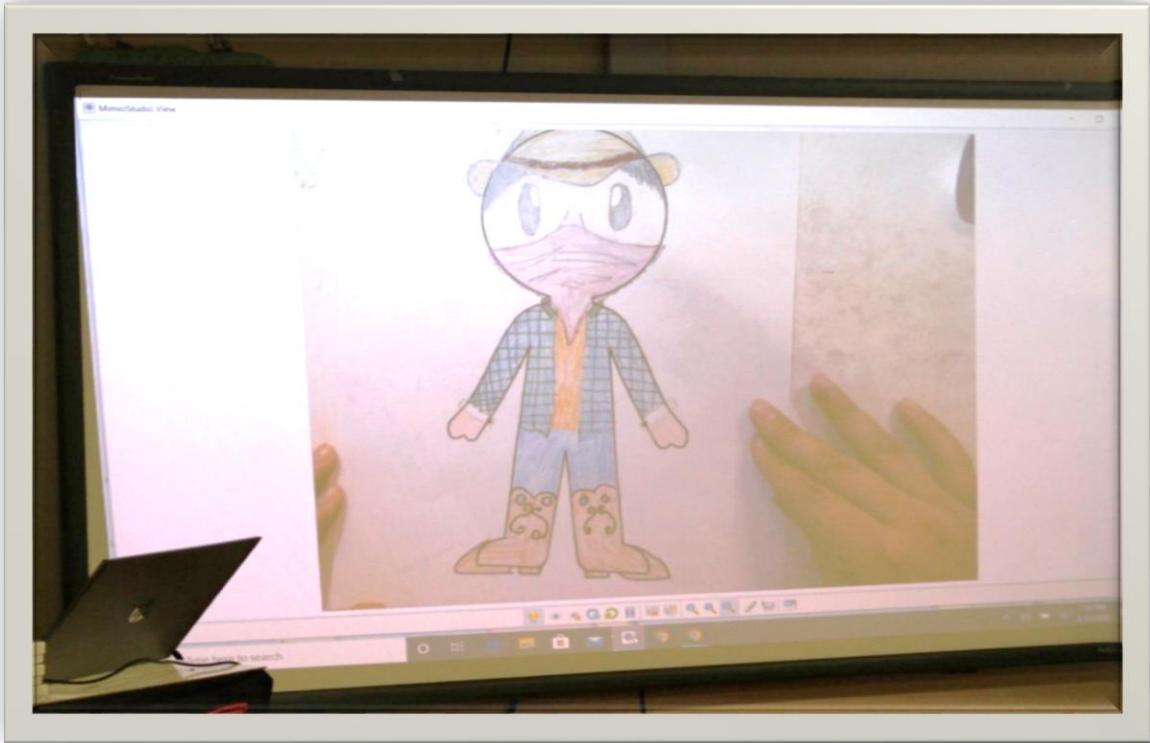
Lesson Plan 2: Farmworker's PPE

The main objective of this day was to have students visualize themselves as a farmworker. Teaching students about Personal Protective Equipment used by farmworkers and the dangers faced by farmworkers at their workplace were critical in their learning.

Students were provided with a paper template of a person and color pencils. Students were asked to identify and draw the personal protective clothing and items used by farmworkers such as long sleeve shirts, gloves, hats, and bandanas.

Each student drew a depiction of themselves as a farmworker with their understandings of what a farmworker looks like when they are working. Students were instructed to draw, color, and cut out their drawing and share it, along with what they learned, with the rest of the class.







Capturing the type of PPE used by farmworkers during the cabbage harvest, June 2020

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Photo credit: Ricardo Trejo

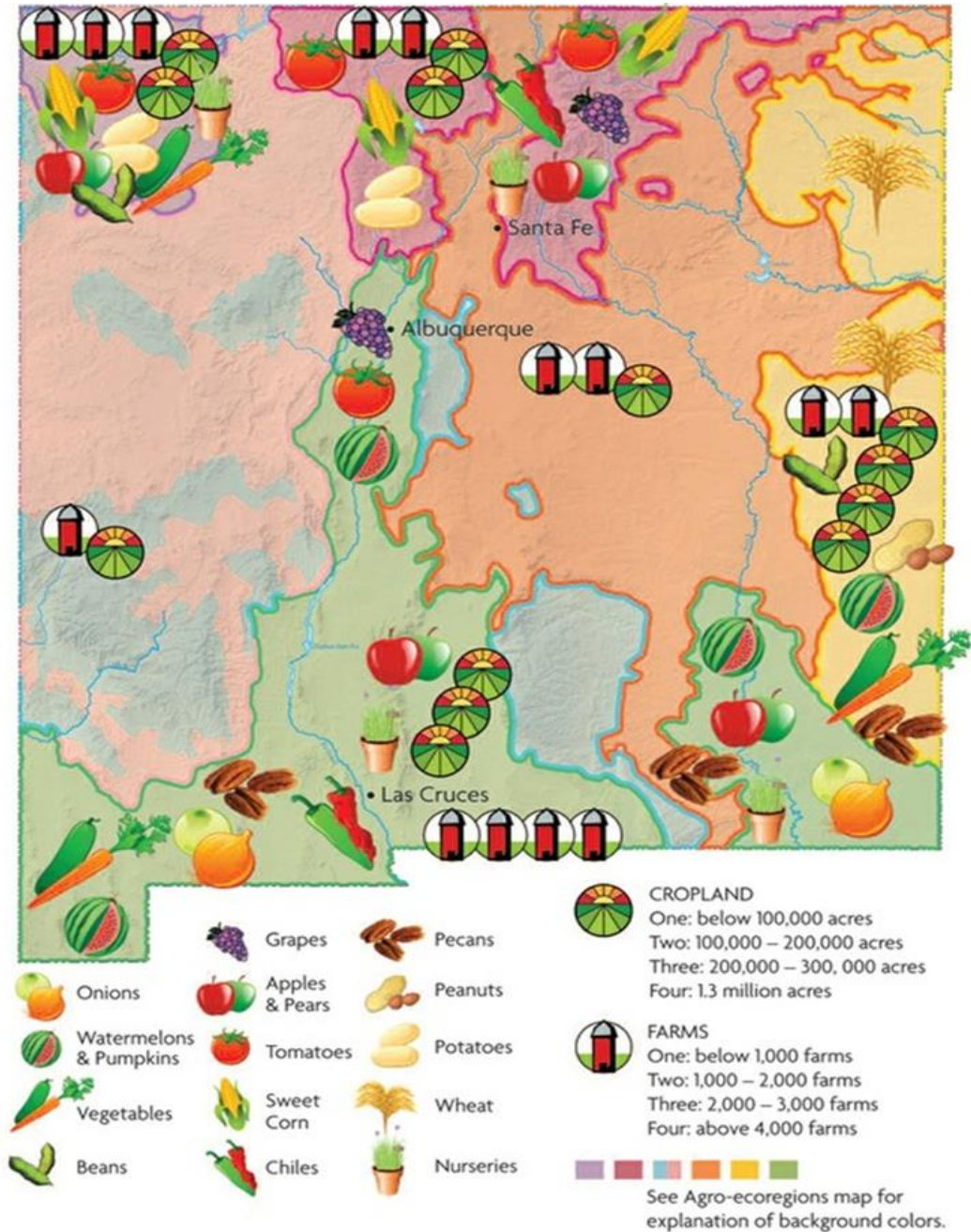
Lesson Plan 3: Agricultural Crops

The objective of this day was to have students identify the types of crops grown seasonally in New Mexico and other crops harvested around the country.

Students were provided with USDA Agricultural Statistics for New Mexico, paper and colored pencils to draw their favorite fruits and vegetables, and the types of tools that are used to harvest them. Students shared their drawings with the class.

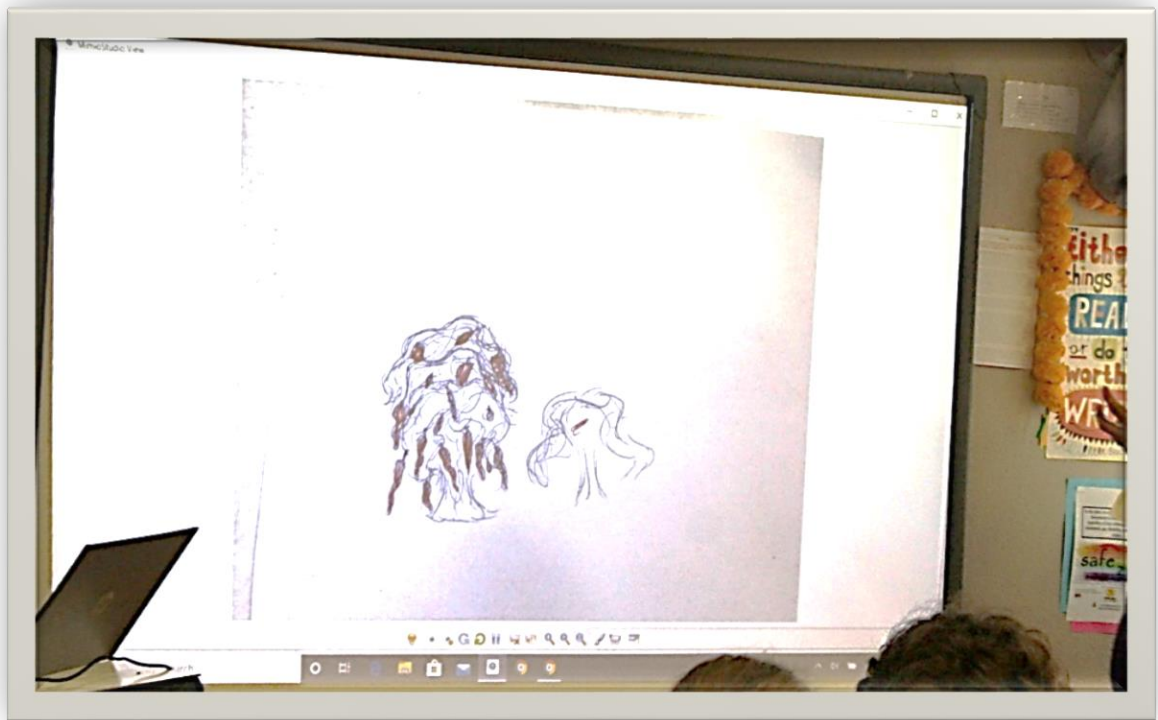


New Mexico Crop Map



Planting & Harvesting Dates: New Mexico







Green chile harvest in Southern New Mexico, July 2020

Las Cruces, New Mexico
Photo credit: Ricardo Trejo

The Butterfly Project: Honoring Farmworkers Through Art

The last component of the art exhibit was Lesson 4: The Butterfly Project. Students were to decorate a butterfly postcard and write a message to a farmworker.

Why a butterfly? The Monarch Butterfly is widely used by scholars, activists, and groups as a symbol for immigrants and their rights. The butterfly represents the natural flow of migration, which is a common experience of many migrant farmworkers.

<http://migration.lib.uiowa.edu/exhibits/show/about/>

Lesson Plan 4: The Butterfly Project*

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the symposium was postponed. The art collaborative came to an abrupt end.*

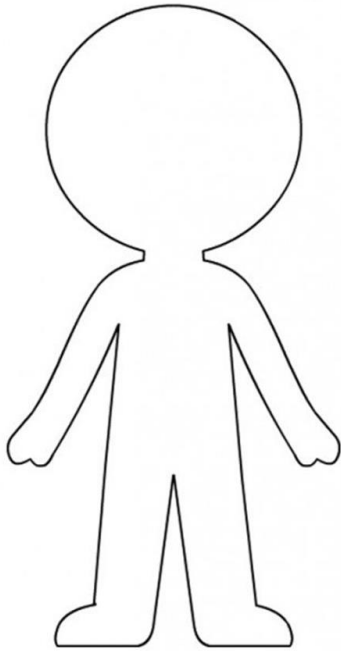
Objective: Students are to think critically about the injustices and hardships farmworkers face in their workplace. Write messages of hope, recognition or thank you on a postcard in the shape of a butterfly. Students will learn about the immigrant story's connection to the Monarch Butterfly to natural migration.

Students will be provided with butterfly postcards and markers.

Instructions:

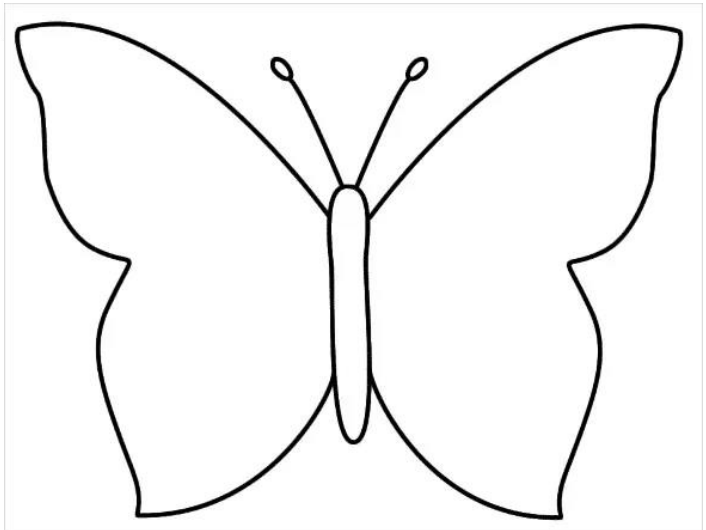
- Decorate/color the front of the butterfly postcard
- On the back side of the postcard, write a message of hope to a farmworker, sign their name, and share with the class
- The butterfly will then hang from the ceiling as part of the 3-D art exhibit

Materials Used



Paper templates used to identify and draw farmworkers clothes and PPE

Butterfly used to write students message of hope and shout outs to farmers



The Butterfly Project: Honoring Farmworkers Through Art

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we were unable to complete the in-person art project, but with your help, we can continue our initiative safely and online!

This is a **call to action** to help us complete this project by writing a message of hope, solidarity, or a simple shout-out to a local farmworker in Southern New Mexico.

There are two potential ways to get involved, you can either create your own butterfly postcard **or** we can create one on your behalf with your personalized message.

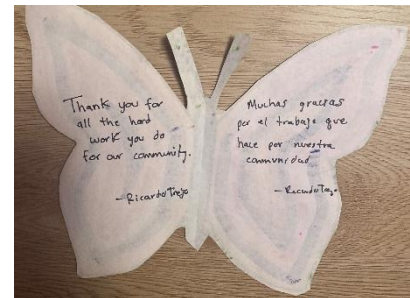
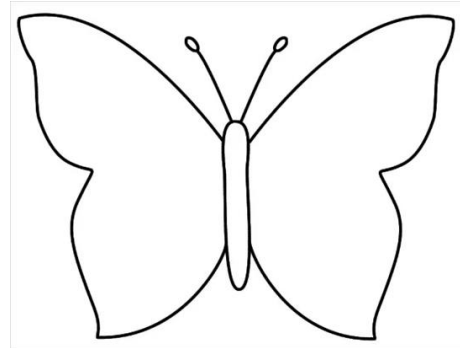
The following instructions have more guidance on how you can participate.

Create your own butterfly

Option 1: Instructions

1. Print a butterfly template OR draw your own butterfly outline on a sheet of paper or cardstock.
2. Draw, color, and design one side of your butterfly.
3. On the other side, write a message of hope, solidarity, or a simple thank you to a farmworker.
4. Sign your name and send it via email to camp@nmsu.edu or mail to NMSU CAMP at the address below:

NMSU CAMP
MSC IDS, PO Box 30001
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001



Create your own butterfly

Option 2: Instructions

1. Follow this link <https://forms.gle/VkzSXxRjrbUkPxls8> to write a message of hope, solidarity, or a simple thank you to a farmworker and help design your butterfly postcard.
2. A CAMP Student Leader will print, color, design, and write your personal message on a butterfly postcard.
3. Once completed a CAMP Student Leader will send you an image of your butterfly postcard to your personal email address.

Help us complete this project by sharing your butterfly with us!

#HonoringFarmworkers #JPaulTaylor

#NMSUCAMP #FarmworkerAwareness

The Butterfly Project: Honoring Farmworkers Through Art

Throughout the **2021 J. Paul Taylor Symposium** (March 28 – April 2) and **National Farmworker Awareness Week** (March 25 – March 31) we will be highlighting these images through social media campaigns. We ask all participants to also share using the following hashtags:

#HonoringFarmworkers

#JPaulTaylor

#NMSUCAMP

#FarmworkerAwareness

Once we collect all butterflies, they will be delivered to farmworkers throughout Southern New Mexico during the upcoming harvest season.



**JPTSJ Symposium 16th Annual Poster
Green Chile Harvest, August 2019**

Salem, New Mexico

Photo credit: Ricardo Trejo

CAMP Student Council Leaders at JPT Academy



Carolina Trejo & Isela Sanchez discussing the importance of farmworker movements in the U.S.

Leonardo Ramos sharing about the different types of crops harvested in the U.S.



CAMP Student Council Leaders at JPT Academy



Isela Sanchez & Manuel Nunez preparing students for the upcoming exhibit installation.



Edrik Castro & Roy Cordova sharing their personal experience of working in the fields.

NMSU CAMP Student Council Officers visit with Mr. J. Paul Taylor to discuss the art project

L to R:

Ricardo Trejo (CAMP SC Co-Advisor),
Carolina Trejo (Secretary), Adilene
García (President), Daniel Grajeda
(Vice President)



Back L to R:

Martha A. Estrada,
Ricardo Trejo, Daniel
Grajeda, Carolina Trejo,
Adilene García

Front:

Dr. Cynthia Bejarano and
Mr. J. Paul Taylor