



Back to School Drive helps students

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It might seem like summer is only just getting underway, but the new school year is not too far away, and the Laboratory—with help from its employees and the community—is sponsoring a Back to School Drive to help local students succeed.

“Last year we collected 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies,” says drive organizer Selena Valencia. “We're aiming to help as many children again this year.”

Through August 7, area residents are encouraged to join with Lab employees to donate a backpack. To make contributions go further, take advantage of New Mexico’s tax-free weekend on August 3–5.

While all appropriate donations will be gratefully received, an ideal donation is a backpack filled with the following school supplies:

- 1 pack No. 2 pencils (24 pack)
- 1 pack of colored pencils
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 highlighter
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil box or bag
- 1 3-ring 1.5 inch OR 1 inch binder
- 1 pack of loose leaf paper
- 3 70-page notebooks
- 5 plain pocket folders with fasteners

Backpacks and supplies can be dropped off at the Lab’s Community Partnerships Office (CPO) at 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos or at our partner locations of Smiths in Los Alamos, or the Del Norte Credit Union branches in Los Alamos, White Rock and Española.

The CPO is working with 12 school districts and the Bureau of Indian Education schools in Northern New Mexico to make sure the backpacks and supplies go to the children that need them most.

“The aim is to help ensure that children can show up on the first day with the supplies they need to start the school year right,” Valencia says.

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