



**Contact:**

Allison Scott  
Communications Specialist  
719.359.2319  
ascott@mssd14.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Giant “M” on the Mountain Tradition Returns in Manitou Springs After Decades Hiatus**

**Manitou Springs, CO** - A school tradition has now turned into a collaboration between alumni, school staff, Manitou Springs Fire Department, and historians to return the giant “M” on the mountain (located next to the water tower) after several decades of being on pause.

The “M” is for Manitou. It’s about school and town pride. People working on the project hope that this will promote a sense of community and solidarity.

The tradition first started in the 1950’s with Manitou Springs School District’s pep club. The rocks were whitewashed then. Over the years other organizations took on the responsibility of hiking up the mountain to maintain the “M.”

Statistics about returning the “M” this year:

- 16 people worked on the project
- 13 gallons of environmentally safe paint
- 6 weeks to complete
- 40 feet tall by 5 feet wide (each leg)

The school is celebrating its 150th year, and the “M” will be unveiled on Friday, September 30 during the homecoming parade from 1:30-2:30 pm.

### **ABOUT MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14**

Established in 1872, Manitou Springs School District 14 (MSSD14) serves approximately 1,350 students from Preschool to 12th Grade who reside in the communities of Manitou Springs, Cascade, Green Mountain Falls, Chipita Park, Crystal Park, and Cedar Heights. The district also serves about 48 percent “choice” students who come from other locations in El Paso and Teller Counties.

MSSD14 offers a “small town” educational environment driven by the core values of relationships, deep learning and opportunity. The district and its staff are dedicated to providing a safe and caring learning environment, encouraging all students to reach their potential and preparing responsible citizens.

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