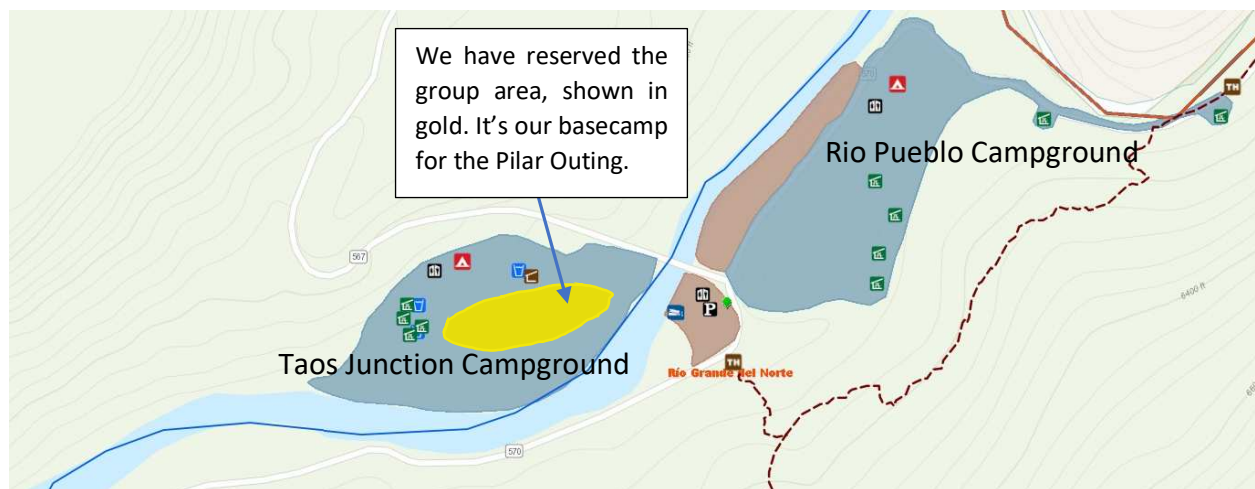


## Directions to the GPANM Pilar Outing

For several years now the GPANM association has had a “Pilar Outing”. The “Pilar Outing” is actually at the Taos Junction Campground, which is 6.2-miles northeast of the small village of Pilar, NM. The preferred way to get to the GPANM Pilar Outing, especially if you have a large RV or a low-clearance vehicle, is on all-paved roads. (The road in the campground is all dirt, with lots of very healthy goat-head plants. You’ve been forewarned!)

Here are the directions, from Albuquerque, for the “all-paved roads” option. Drive north on I-25, take Exit 276, and turn left to get on the Hwy 599 Truck Bypass around Santa Fe. At the end of 599, take the left exit that goes to Española on Hwy 84 and 285 North. In Pojoaque, hang to the left to stay on Hwy 84 and 285 North to Española. As you enter Española hang to the right which will put you on State Road 68 North to Taos. (Highways 84 and 285 North go to the left, which you do not want to take for the all-paved road option.) From this intersection in Española, it’s a 29.1-mile drive to Pilar, NM.

As you approach the turnoff to the small village of Pilar, from the south on State Road 68 North, look for the turn-off to the Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center, which will be on your right. (It’s a great place to visit to learn more about the area.) You want to take the first left turn after the visitor center. There are several small eclectic shops, and a café, at the intersection. After you turn you will be on Rt 570. Over the next 6.2-miles, as the winding road follows the Rio Grande River, you’ll pass many turnouts, campgrounds, picnic areas, trail heads and boat access points. Drive slow and enjoy the drive. Around 6.2 miles you will come to a bridge that crosses over the Rio Grande River (and the road then becomes Rt 567). Take the first left after you cross the bridge. Many of us setup our campers, RVs, tents, or just park near a large concrete pad that you’ll see on your left as you enter the Taos Junction Campground. Here is a birds-eye view of the Taos Junction Campground.



At the Taos Junction Campground, there is a reservable group non-sheltered area, 4 campsites with shelters, potable water, and restroom facilities. We have reserved the group shelter, but not the 4 campsites in the back of the campground. If this campground is full, there are many options. The next best option is the Rio Pueblo Campground, which is located on the right just before you cross the bridge. See the map above. It has 6 primitive campsites, meaning the campsites don’t have shelters and there’s no potable water, but there are restroom facilities. As for other options, you drove past many campgrounds on your way to get to the Pilar Outing.

For those who like GPS coordinates, the GPANM Pilar Outing (at the Taos Junction Campground) is located at:  
36.335930°, -105.735798°

Hope to see you there!