



Santa Fe Operators Place First in Regional Solid Waste Road-E-O Event

Winners to Compete at National Competition in Fall 2022

The City of Santa Fe's [Environmental Services Division \(ESD\)](#) and the [Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency \(SFSWMA\)](#) would like to congratulate several of their employees who placed in events in a regional Road-E-O competition hosted by the [Texas Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America](#) in April in Lubbock, Texas.



Three City of Santa Fe Collections Equipment Operators placed in their categories for New Mexico: **Patricio Lopez placed first** and **Patrick McCoy placed second** in the Automated Side Loader category while driving a residential cart collection truck. **Albert Valdez placed first** in the Front Loader category, driving a commercial dumpster collection truck. **Ryan Mohler from SFSWMA won first place** in the Landfill Mechanic category.



The [Solid Waste Association of North America \(SWANA\)](#) sanctions annual Road-E-O events, where solid waste equipment operators compete on driving courses designed to test critical skills for collections equipment, landfill equipment, and mechanics. ESD sent four of its collections operators to the Road-E-O: Patricio Lopez, Albert Valdez, Patrick McCoy, and Hector Enriquez. All four operators performed very well in the

regional event, competing with equipment operators from San Antonio, Houston and El

Paso. Competitors from each state are ranked individually to determine who will compete in the SWANA International Road-E-O event that will take place in El Paso, Texas, in October.

“Our operators have to navigate large equipment in narrow streets, mountain areas, and snowy conditions, and they get a difficult job done, every day,” said Shirlene Sitton, ESD Director and President of the [New Mexico Chapter of SWANA](#). “I am so proud of our operators and excited SWANA offers these kinds of opportunities to celebrate them. We know how good they are and now we get to show that on a national stage!”

Ryan Mohler with SFSWMA, winner of the Mechanic Competition, works on both landfill equipment and large fleet vehicles including semi-trucks. Ryan recently completed his Associate’s degree in Automotive Technology at the Santa Fe Community College through the Agency’s tuition assistance program.



Randall Kippenbrock, Director of SFSWMA and board member for the New Mexico chapter of SWANA added, “The Agency has hosted the New Mexico SWANA Road-E-O in the past, allowing many of our local operators to participate in State and National competitions. This was our first opportunity to showcase one of our talented mechanics. I look forward to seeing how well Ryan does at the [SWANA International Road-E-O event](#) later this year.”

The City of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency congratulate these excellent and highly skilled solid waste professionals and are proud that Santa Fe will be represented at the national competition in October.

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