

Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • April 2007

MULTICULTURAL POTLUCK

by Laura C.

Tuesday, April 3 is the "Homes Around The World" multicultural potluck. Please bring your display and a potluck dish to share. If you do not have a display but would like to bring a dish and join the potluck you are welcome to. Displays can be as time saving as pictures glued to a posterboard or as involved as a toothpick model of a house. Use your curiosity and imagination and have FUN.

If you have any questions, contact me. Here are a couple of websites to help get you started <http://www.worldhouseinfo.com/index.html> and http://www.ict.mic.ul.ie/websites/2002/Imelda_Fitzgerald/index.htm



SDH GROUP PHOTO by Lara B.

The group photo never happened at the Valentine's party, so the new date for it is Tuesday, April 3 at the park. We will do the photo right after announcements, before the multicultural potluck starts.

ART CLUB by Laura C.

Art Club will be held on Thursday, April 26 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The activity will be stepping stone mosaics. Really! No changes. There is no charge for this activity. Participants are asked to bring mosaic materials to share. Please RSVP for directions and so enough supplies and pizza can be provided. Art Club takes place at my home and homemade pizza is served for lunch. Next month will be the last Art Club until September 2007.

ROOTS & SHOOTS by Lara B.

Making Peace Doves (for the Earth Day Parade) Monday, April 9, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. We will get together at Bookman's on Grant for a craft day to make personal sized Peace Doves, so that everyone who wants to march with our Roots & Shoots group in the Earth Day Parade can fly their own dove that they've made out of recycled materials. The huge dove will take about four big people to fly, and then everyone else can each have a personal one. For each dove that you'd like to make, please bring the following: a 20 oz. plastic bottle (soda, water, etc.), a wire coat hanger (not plastic - it needs to bend), a 3 to 4 foot stick (bamboo, dowel, plastic pipe, etc.), a roll of white masking tape, and 6 white plastic grocery bags. I will provide the rest needed, but if you'd like to see how they are made ahead of time, or if you can't make it on the 9th but would like to make them at home and still join us in the parade, look here: <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/resource/docs/campaigns/smalldovedirections.pdf>



Earth Day Parade Saturday, April 21, gathering downtown at 9:30 a.m. Our R&S group will march in the parade, flying the huge Peace Dove that we made a few years ago. We will meet in the grassy area next to the Children's Museum to prepare for the parade, which starts at 10:00 a.m. Also, we are getting together beforehand to make smaller doves that each person can singly fly themselves, so that everyone in our group has one to fly! (Please see above.) Everyone is welcome to join us in the parade! And don't forget to wear your R&S or SDH shirt if you have one! The festival goes from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is great for the whole family. For more info go to:

<http://www.saems.org/Earthday/index.htm>

Everyone is invited to all R&S activities!



SDH ROCKET LAUNCH

by Donna and Theo J.

Attention all model rocket enthusiasts, or anyone interested in learning more about this fun hobby, get ready for an SDH rocket launch! We have permission from the Southern Arizona Rocketry Association (SARA) to participate in their Saturday, April 28 model rocket launch, which will be held from 8:00 a.m. to noon. We would like to hold a rocket building session before the launch at the April 24 park day. You may purchase your own model rocket kit and bring it to the rocket building session. Or if enough people are interested, we can try to purchase kits as a group and get a bulk discount. If you are interested in purchasing a kit with the group, please e-mail us as soon as possible so we can start that process. As soon as we have an idea of how many people are interested in purchasing kits, we'll post costs, etc. For more information about SARA's rocket launches and launch site, go to: <http://www.sararocketry.org/launch.htm#Launch%20Schedule>

We will also post more information about the rocket launch in April. The rocket launch will be SDH's Space Day activity. The goal of this nationwide event is to inspire young people to explore careers in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology. Space Day is dedicated to the achievements, benefits, and opportunities of space exploration. Although schools celebrate Space Day throughout the year, it is officially the first Thursday in May. This year that is May 3. The Pima Air and Space Museum will have their events on Saturday, May 5. For more information, go to: http://www.pimaair.org/index.php?option=com_extcalendar&Itemid=235&extmode=view&extid=115

SPRING MUSIC RECITAL by Victoria M.

On Thursday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m. (Please note the time as it has been subjected to a bit of debate and change) we will have our Spring Music Recital at Washburn Pianos on Broadway just east of Craycroft. The folks there are happy to have us again and have slightly changed their policy so that there is no fee unless we want the piano tuned especially for the recital. I trust the piano will be in great tune as it is already tuned regularly.

I know we all like to have treats after the recital, but another policy change at Washburn (so they can keep their costs down) is no more refreshments. They ruin the carpet (perhaps some of you noticed that at past recitals). But as long as all our talented children are practicing regularly and are able to share their gifts with us, we won't miss the refreshments at all! If anyone has any questions or would like to sign up, please call me.



ROCKS AND ROPES CLIMBING CAMP

by Eileen D.

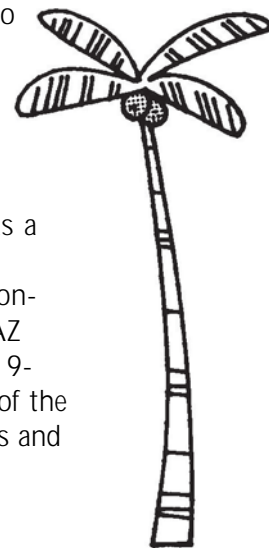
Rocks and Ropes will offer an indoor rock climbing camp for homeschoolers on April 30, May 2 and May 4 from 9:00 to 12:30. This is a shorter camp than the ones they do during the summer. They will not do any outdoor climbing. The cost is \$75. **Rock I** is for ages 8 to 11 and **Rock II** is for ages 12 and up. We need a minimum of ten children in Rock I and six children in Rock II in order to do the camp. If you are interested in participating please sign up as soon as possible so that we know whether we will have enough participants to do the camp. You can register for the camp online at: <http://rocksandropes.com/campreg.html>

In addition to the \$50 deposit (non-refundable), they charge a \$3.00 handling fee for online registration. The online form is a little confusing. Scroll down the page to the Rock I Summer 2007 and Rock II Summer 2007 columns and you'll see the set of TWO "Buy Now" buttons. Those are the two online registration options for our camp. You'll see that below those two buttons are, "private 4/30,5/2,4 9-12:30." Ignore that above the two "Buy Now" buttons it has a different time since those are for the camps that start during the summer.

To register by mail, you can print out their form from the website and mail a \$50 deposit (non-refundable) to: Private Camp Registration, Rocks and Ropes 330 S. Toole Ave. #400, Tucson, AZ 85701. On the form, make sure you check the box for Rock I or Rock II and "private 4/30,5/2,4 9-12:30." For both online and mail registration, the remaining amount of \$25 will be due the day of the first class. Each child will need to fill out a waiver prior to camp if they have not climbed at Rocks and Ropes before. Please come to the camp well before 9:00 to pay, turn in waivers and get your equipment fitted so that we can start the class promptly at 9:00.

The waiver is at: <http://www.rocksandropes.com/waiver.html>

If you have any questions, please contact me.





CURRICULUM EXCHANGE

by Jackie O.

Get ready to clean out your bookshelves; the SDH Curriculum Exchange is set for Tuesday, May 8! Bring your no-longer-used curricula to the park, set up a table or a blanket and see if you can pass on your discards to another homeschooling family (AND make a few dollars too!) Remember, it need not be just textbooks. Videos, games, puzzles, toys, anything that has helped your child learn and grow can be considered curriculum.

I am also inviting anyone in SDH who has a curriculum-related business to set up and display their wares too during the exchange. (No, Tupperware can NOT be considered curriculum!) Please wait until after the 11:00 announcements before setting out your goodies. And remember to hit the ATM yourself before you come to park. You might find just the thing to enhance your family's homeschooling experience. Call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING

by Laura C.

I am planning a homeschool information meeting for Monday, May 14 at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library located at 101 N. Stone Ave. beginning at 10 :00 a.m. Various resources for families looking into homeschooling will be offered such as information about SDH, how to register to homeschool, homeschool conventions, curriculum choices, etc. If anyone is interested in helping with this event please contact me. Whether you have suggestions or would like to come share your homeschooling experience with new homeschoolers, your involvement is welcomed and appreciated.

CYT DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

by Laura N.

We will be going as a group to the CYT play "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" on Wednesday, May 16 at 12 noon. It will be at Crowder Hall on the U of A campus. This is a children's theater group with the cast consisting of 8 to 18 year olds. www.cyttucson.org There are three SDH members in this play (Birdie C. and Emily & Erin N). If you would like to sign up to go to the performance, please send payment of \$4.00 per person (checks made payable to CYT) to me by April 6 at the latest. My mailing address is in the roster, or contact me and I will get you all the details.

PARENTS ANNUAL SDH PLANNING MEETING

by Lara B.

On Friday, May 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Bookman's East (Speedway and Wilmot) in the Community Room all SDH parents are invited to come and help make the yearly SDH calendar and the who's who volunteer list. I will bring copies of the itinerary for everyone to use and make notes on. You might want to bring your daily planner/calendar to help with scheduling. Also, this is where new volunteers take over jobs from people who are giving them up. You can even add a new job if you'd like. So please come and help the planning of the SDH 2007-2008 'school year.' Hope to see you there!

A DIFFERENT SCIENCE FAIR

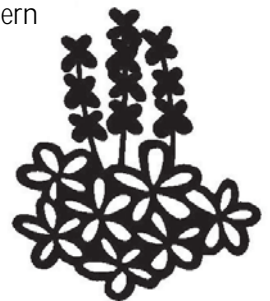
by Donna J.

Last month's Pima County Home Educators Science Fair, sponsored by SDH, wasn't your usual experiments-only fair. While we did have some traditional projects, it also included demonstrations, a great rock exhibit, and two power point presentations. It was great fun and we are hoping more students will participate next year. All participants received certificates of achievement and those planning to go on to the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) received some wonderful advice from the judges for improving their projects as they went on to the regional competition.

Homeschoolers were very successful at SARSEF this year. One of the top prizes for high school students went to a homeschooler, who took home more than ten prizes! SDH members and others who participated in our science fair at the elementary school and middle school levels did very well too. To see a listing of the award winning SARSEF projects, go to:

<http://www.scientek12.org/pageframe.asp?pg=72>

(Winning homeschool entries are listed at the end of the school listings at each level)



SARSEF by Laura C.

The Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair Wrapped up on March 24. A surprising 1,500 students entered this year, exceeding organizer's expectations. Several homeschoolers participated and won awards. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge them.

- Claire Thai won 2nd place for Cricket Thermometers
- Dreya Coleman won 2nd place and a SwAEBR trophy and cash award for The Joy O' Cholla
- Jacob Foxworthy won 3rd place and The Cactus & Succulent Society 1st place cash award for The Cactus Compass
- Kanesa Gay won 2nd place for To Grow Or Not To Grow
- Theo Jones won 1st place, a telescope from the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Assoc., a ONR Naval Science Award, and a DCYS nomination for Digging In The Astronomical Data Mine:A Search For Variable Stars
- Stephen Vandivort won 3rd place for One Size Fits One: A New Baseball Glove Design
- Birdie Coleman won 1st place, Friends of Kartchner Caverns 1st place cash award, VA award and a DCYS nomination For Caves, Cochise, and Conservation
- Taylor Foxworthy won 2nd place, UA Center for Insect Science Mike Wells Memorial Award and a DCYS nomination for Bee-autiful Girls
- McKenna Foxworthy won 1st place and a DCYS nomination for Cookie Dough "In The Raw"
- David Voci won 2nd place for Hummingbird Feeders
- Corrina Gay won a TI83 calculator for Texas Instruments and ASCE savings bond for Risks On The Roads
- Nick Griffis won 1st place and a Arizona Hydrological Society cash award, Soil Water & Environmental Science 1st place gift certificate, Raytheon cash award, and US Army 2nd place certificate and polo shirt for Fishy Refill.
- Parker Owan was the big winner of the night winning SARSEF's top award of being sent to the International Science Fair in New Mexico. Parker also won 1st place and Catalina Rotary Club certificate and cash, ONR Naval Science award, Yale Science and Engr. certificate and medal, Southwest Gas Corp. cash award, Raytheon \$1,000.00 scholarship, ASCE savings bond, SciEnTeK-12 \$2,000.00 scholarship, TEP cash award, US Army 1st place medal, certificate & shirt, and So. Az. Env.Mgmt.Soc. cash award

Congratulations to each and every one of you.

NORTHWEST PARK / ACTIVITY DAY - Thursdays

Several families meet at various locations on the northwest side on Thursday mornings. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ester S.

EASTSIDE PARK DAY - Mondays and Wednesdays

We meet on Mondays and some Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Purple Heart Park in Rita Ranch, also referred to as Rita Ranch Park, on E. Rita Road off Houghton. Usually we are by the main parking area where the blue and orange play structure is. If no one is there by about 11:30 then people can walk over to check the west end of the park by the purple play structure to see if we are there. There are days when none of us can go, so contact Celeste W. by phone or e-mail first to make sure you have someone to meet there.

AIT : ATHLETES IN TRAINING

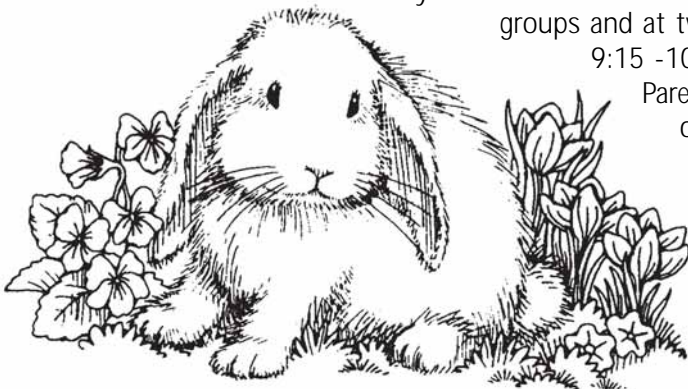
by Jaimie L.

Athletes in Training (AIT) meets on Tuesdays at Fort Lowell Park. AIT is a physical education/fitness program taught by trained coaches. Each month will have a specific sport or activity. Classes are in two age groups and at two times:

9:15 -10:15 a.m. for ages 7 and up; and 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. for ages 4 to 6

Parents need to fill out a health questionnaire/ waiver and sign a code of conduct agreement. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork and make payment. Costs are: \$16.00 first child, \$12.00 second child, \$8.00 third child, and \$8.00 for each additional child.

This is not a drop-off class. Parents must be present and close by when their children attend PE (or have another adult there who is responsible for them.) Children should be dressed appropriately for the activity and wear sneakers.



SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - April 19

Held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE** that we have changed the location of the meeting. We now meet at Denny's (3655 E Speedway - two blocks west of Alvernon)

- April's book is *Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea* by Charles Seife
- May: *Straight Man* by Richard Russo
- June: *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell
- July: *Freakanomics* by Steven Levitt

Note: Some of the above books may have a waiting list at the library. If you plan to get a selection from the library, you may want to look into putting an early hold on it.

Moms' Coffee Night - April 25

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at Denny's (3655 E. Speedway - two blocks west of Alvernon) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between). **PLEASE NOTE** that we no longer meet at Something Sweet, but now meet at Denny's.

Dads' Coffee Night - April 4

Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Borders on Oracle.

PARK DAY - Every Tuesday

SDH members meet at Fort Lowell Park (Glenn and Craycroft) every Tuesday starting at 10:30 a.m. Announcements are held at 11:00 a.m.



FEATURED WEBSITES

by Debbie G.

Center Science-Art.com Image Bank <http://www.science-art.com/gallery.asp>

[Science-Art.com](http://www.science-art.com) connects potential buyers of scientific illustrations directly to the artists who created the illustrations. The Image Bank is set up for easy and convenient searching by terms, topic, subject, media, etc. I found this site while searching for information about poisonous mushrooms; here is the link to the picture I came across:

<http://www.science-art.com/image.asp?id=1756&search=1>.

America's Historical Documents National Archives.gov

<http://www.archives.gov/historical-docs>

At this site, you can find everything from the Declaration of Independence to letter from Elvis Presley written to President Nixon. Clicking on the thumbnail image of a document will bring you to a page with a brief description of that document. For more detailed information about the document, click on Read More at Our Documents at the end of the description. This will take you to a page that provides links to a larger version of the document, a transcript of the document, and a high resolution .pdf version of the document for downloading (the download can take quite a while).

Climate Change Calculator from [AmericanForests.org](http://www.americanforests.org)

<http://www.americanforests.org/resources/cc>

"The Personal Climate Change Calculator is an easy to use tool which will help you measure your climate-affecting carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions." That is a quote from the web page. The calculator serves as a way to get donations for tree planting, but it is possible to use the tool without making the donation.

Instructables from [SquidLabs](http://www.instructables.com) <http://www.instructables.com>

What began as an MIT project for aiding technology development has become Instructables, a collaborative web site that shares step-by-step instructions for everything from recipes to making your own USB car charger.



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Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers is an open, not-for-profit home education network, providing social and creative outlets for homeschooling families. We are not devoted to any one homeschooling approach, political platform, religious outlook, or philosophical ideal. Our homeschooling community supports all families, regardless of their personal lifestyle or educational choices in the area of home education. Our motto is "**hozho**," a Navajo word meaning "harmony" or "walking in beauty or friendship."