

Inside SDH



Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • April 2009



SDH LEGO CLUB

by Kim B.

The SDH Lego Club will meet on Friday, April 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Library in Meeting Room A. I will be setting up a table for the Lego Club to display their creations at the SDH Earth Day/Science Fair festival the following Tuesday. The theme for the Lego Club creations will be Solar Power and/or Space.

HOMESCHOOLING ON A BUDGET

by Kim B.

Economy getting you down? Times are tough for many people so let's band together and find ways to live and homeschool cheaply and well!

On Tuesday, April 7 at our regular park meeting I am organizing a discussion about how to homeschool on a budget. I'm no expert so I hope you all will bring your ideas and suggestions. Since homeschooling often involves a one income living situation, let's also discuss ways to live cheaply in general. It can be anything from the best website to find cheap books to affordable car insurance.

Park day in April is at McCormick Park so we'll find a nice shady spot there to have our discussion. It will start at 12:30 p.m.

JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA

by Theo J.

Do you like discussing politics and current events? Then join JSA and help form a new Junior State of America chapter for homeschoolers in Pima County. You must be in middle school or high school to participate in JSA (or be in middle school by September). We are having planning meetings in April to brainstorm what type of events we want to schedule for the fall. JSA chapters sponsor a wide variety of activities, including: student-moderated discussions, debates, mock elections and mock trials, community service projects, voter registration drives, as well as speakers on current events and political topics. Come to our next meeting and help us plan activities for the coming year. Our next meeting is Friday, April 3 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the large meeting room at the Woods Memorial Branch Library. If you can't make it to this meeting, contact me for other meeting dates.

The chapter is also planning to participate in Arizona JSA Spring State, "The Time is Now", April 25-26 in Tucson. Only high school students may participate in this overnight conference. Students will stay at the Radisson Suites Hotel, 6555 East Speedway. Activities include discussions, debates, seminars, the election of state officers, and a dance. Cost is only \$55, including hotel. This also includes Sunday breakfast, but students must pay for the rest of their meals.

If you would like to participate, please contact my mother by April 3 for information. For more information about JSA, check out their web site:

<http://www.jsa.org/>



PARK DAY SCHEDULE

January – Ft. Lowell

February – McCormick

March – Ft. Lowell

April – McCormick

May – Ft. Lowell

June – summer break

July – summer break

August – McCormick

September – Ft. Lowell

October – McCormick

November – Ft. Lowell

December – McCormick

SDH'S ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL POTLUCK EVENT - *EARTH DAY & SCIENCE FAIR*

by Lara B. and Donna J.

Our Annual Potluck Event this year is themed Earth Day & Science, and will be at our regular park day at McCormick Park on Tuesday, April 21. It will be a fun-filled day with lots of things going on! There will be special guests and booths and exhibits for everyone to enjoy, as well as creations made by SDH members that will be on display or demonstrated. Everyone is encouraged to bring something they've created to show it off, or even give a talk or performance. Bring a table or whatever you need to do so, or let us know so that we can add it in. Some of the included events will be:



☼ **Physics Factory Bus** ☼

Get ready for some science fun! The Physics Factory Bus will visit SDH's Spring Festival on Tuesday, April 21 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Physics Bus is a science museum on wheels. And wherever it appears there's always plenty of exciting and educational science experiments and demonstrations. Fueled by used vegetable oil, donated by Greycycle, the bus itself is a science experiment and an alternative energy demonstration right in line with our Earth Day theme. So don't miss the science magic.

☼ **SDH Science Exhibit** ☼

Calling all young scientists, inventors, and architects, show off your experiments, research, or any of your science and engineering projects, inventions or creations. Students may exhibit any type of project and it doesn't have to be in line with the festival's Earth Day theme. Projects may be traditional science experiments, but they may also include reports, or displays, including things like rock collections and demonstrations. Last year several students did science demonstrations and that was a lot of fun. This is an informal, very free-form format, unlike the more structured science fairs we have done in the past. There will be no judging or competition, although all children who participate will receive a certificate recognizing their work.

If you can, please bring your own table to exhibit your creations, as we are trying to save on rental costs. If you don't have a folding table, let me know and I will find one for you, or if enough people need tables to merit it, we will rent them. Also, if you know your child will have an exhibit, let me know so I can prepare as many certificates ahead of time as possible. But last-minute entries are also welcome. I will bring blank certificates for these entries, so everyone's work is recognized. Please call or email Donna with any questions.

☼ **Herbal Table** ☼

An SDH mom who has her own small business of all natural and herbal made lotions, salves, remedies, etc, will have a booth set up for the kids to come over and learn about and make their own to take home with them.

☼ **Label Reading** ☼

An SDH mom who is very knowledgeable in chemicals and ingredients because of her special needs child, as well as a lifestyle of using body-friendly and earth-friendly product uses, will have a booth set up with a lot of examples of the good stuff, and the not-so-good stuff. You will learn how to read a label, to look for what really is in things, from household cleaners to lotions and soaps.

☼ **Solar Oven display** ☼

We will have a nice selection of solar ovens and cookers, from kid-made ones out of pizza boxes and chip canisters, to camping style ones, to full sized 'real' ones. Some will be in-use to demonstrate the cooking, and there will be some solar-cooked snacks for people to try.

☼ **Potluck Lunch** ☼

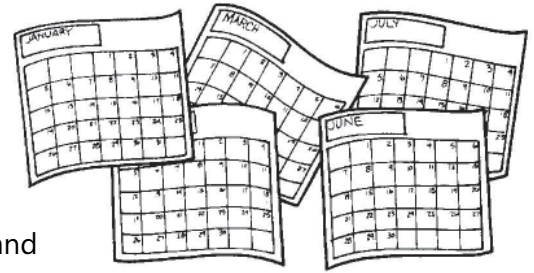
This is SDH's annual potluck event so everyone bring something fabulous to share! There isn't a specific food-type theme this year, so make something earth friendly (maybe things like organic, plentiful/renewable/natural/whole ingredients, solar made, home grown, locally grown, etc). And cooking IS science, so that's already covered! Please bring your own plates, forks and drinks. We could use a few more tables, so anyone who can bring tables for use at the potluck area, please be there by 10:30 with them (or contact us and we will arrange to get them beforehand).



ANNUAL PARENTS PLANNING MEETING

by Lara B.

Our SDH Parents Planning Meeting for the 2009-2010 SDH-year will be on Monday, May 18 from 5:45 to 8:00 p.m. at the downtown Joel Valdez Main Library, in the big lower-level meeting room. The library closes at 8:00, so we will not have the option of staying late. I will open doors at 5:30 p.m. so we can start on time and have at least a full two-hour meeting.



We will decide dates for the annual activities and go over each job that needs a new volunteer to do it. If there is a job or something that you would like to add, this is a great time to do it. If you already have a job that you would like to give up, please post it and announce it ahead of time if you can, so that someone else can think about it and volunteer for it either before or at the meeting. If someone has something that they would like to add to the meeting but cannot come, please let me know so that I can add it to the agenda. I will print out the standard agenda to pass out, so if you have something that you would like added to it beforehand (jobs, dates, etc), let me know! With whatever time is left, we will go over last-minute stuff that does not make it onto the pre-printed list.

There will be refreshments and snacks served! Usually this is for the parents, but if you have to bring kids, then maybe have them bring something quiet to do off to the side. (We'd rather have parents there with kids, then to not come at all!)

SDH JOB OPENINGS by Lori O.

Since this is the time of year to be thinking about how you would like to contribute to SDH next year, here are some open jobs to consider:

- **Roster/Phonelist/Who's-Who List:** This job entails keeping track of the memberships, and publishing a fall/spring roster and phone list, as well as keeping the Who's-Who list up-to-date as people and jobs come and go. This job can be scaled down – maybe we only need the phone list, and the who's-who list could just be published after the May planning meeting. If you take the job, you get to decide how the job is done. This job takes a few minutes each week to add the new people in, then a few hours in the spring and fall to fine-tune the roster/phonelist.

- **Yahoo groups administrator:** This job goes hand-in-hand with the roster job (maybe a couple of people could do the two jobs together). This job entails adding new members to the yahoo groups, cleaning out the yahoo groups in the fall, responding to questions/problems. The person who takes this job should be somewhat comfortable with yahoo groups, although you do not need to be an expert. I will be happy to train you. This job also takes a few minutes each week to add the new people in, as well as a little bit of ongoing time to deal with problems. The largest amount of time is, again, in the fall when cleaning out the yahoo groups after the fall membership deadline.

- **Newcomer committee** (needs members and a chairperson): The newcomer committee greets new people, gives them the newcomer packet, explains how SDH functions. You are basically the "welcome wagon." This is a great way to meet new people and help 'newbie' homeschoolers. I have made some good friends this way. This job only requires time spent at the park. Each committee member does not need to be at each park day, although someone from the committee should always be there. There can be a rotating schedule.

If you would like more information before deciding on any of these jobs, please contact me. I will be happy to talk to you and train you. I think three years of doing these jobs is long enough and I will be retiring at the end of this year!

SPRING MUSIC RECITAL - *Date Change*

by Victoria M.

Dear Musical Friends, I just wanted to update you on the Spring Music Recital. This May the Homeschool Music Recital will be on **MONDAY, May 11** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Armory Park Senior Center. Please pass the word to other musical homeschool families. The Center has undergone some major budget cuts and the ballroom is no longer available on Thursdays because of all the changes. We will try to play "My Country Tis of Thee" as a group in the key of G. That means you practice it at home and then we will all practice it just before the recital starts and perform it at the end of the recital. We'll see how this goes and it should be fun! Please call or email me with questions or to be added to the program.



ROOTS & SHOOTS / EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

Earth Day Parade: The theme for the Earth Day Parade and Children's Festival this year is animal habitats. We are in the parade again this year, and we have made various cacti and animals that live in them out of paper mache, which is what we will be and carry in the parade this year. Everyone is welcome to come be in the parade with us (dressed as a cactus or desert animal), or come watch! It is Saturday, April 4, 9:00 a.m. festival, 10:00 a.m. parade. Parade and festival info at <http://www.tucsonearthday.org/>

Hiking: Our last two hikes of the school year are Saturday, April 11 at Picacho Peak and Friday, April 24 Madera Canyon. No RSVP is needed, but please be on time (or call) so you are not left behind.

First April hike, Saturday, April 11, Picacho Peak, 10:00 a.m. We will do the Nature and/or Calloway Trails, which is easy to medium difficulty, and appropriate for all ages. If we do the whole thing, it's about 1.5 miles to the end, and then back again. It's sunny and warm, so lots of water, sunscreen, hats, etc are recommended! There's a play area and a very short children's cave trail, that we can do afterwards for anyone interested. Picacho Peak is about 30 miles outside of NW Tucson, off I-10. <http://azstateparks.com/Parks/PIPE/map.html> We will meet in Harrington Loop which is near the trailhead.

Second April hike, Friday, April 24, Madera Canyon, 10:00 a.m. It's about an hour south of Tucson - about 25 miles south on I-19 and then about another 12 miles after exiting. Here is a map and directions: http://hikearizona.com/location_g.php?ZTN=772&XD=3 It's a great trail for all ages, lots of birds and wildlife. It's our last hike of the school-year!

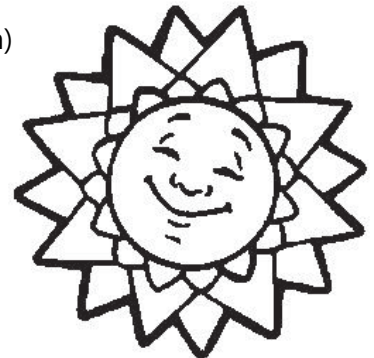
Solar Oven Making: We will be making pizza box and chip canister solar ovens on Wednesday, April 15 at 11:00 a.m. at Zita's house. (Zita lives centrally, and I will give address and directions directly to those who RSVP.) People can bring their own lunch or a small potluck contribution, and we will take a break to have lunch. Zita will set up her real solar oven and bake some cookies in that while we are making our ovens. We will also use these for the solar oven display at the potluck event the following week.

Start collecting and bring the following:

- Cardboard pizza box (the kind left over from a delivered pizza)
- Box knife or scissors
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic wrap
- Black construction paper
- Stick or dowel

We can also make hot dog cookers. For that bring:

- Cylindrical oatmeal box or Pringle chips can
- Sharp knife
- Aluminum foil
- Stick or dowel



Summer Camping: We have a cabin on Mt Lemmon reserved for July 24-26 to go up and get out of the city's heat. There is room for at least 15 people in the cabin, plus there is space outside for tent camping if people would like to do that too/instead. We will hang out and do some hiking and exploring too. More details to come, but wanted to let people know early. If you already know you want to go, let me know. Sleeping inside the cabin is first come-first served.

CITYWIDE USED CURRICULUM & CRAFT FAIR

There will be a citywide curriculum and craft fair sponsored by CHET-SE on Saturday, June 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Christ Community Church (7801 E. Kenyon Dr., Tucson, 85710 south of Broadway and Pantano). To sign up for a table (\$5 for first/ \$3 for second/ \$1 additional tables) or for space rental (bringing own table - \$3 for first/ \$1 for additional space) contact roxannebutcher@cox.net. Earlybird registration deadline is May 26 (\$1 discount off total rental). Regular registration deadline is June 2.





SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - April 21

The book discussion group meets at the regular park day, on the third Tuesday of each month. It starts at 12:00 noon and goes until we are finished, likely around 2:00 p.m. People are always welcome to join whether they've read the book or not.

- April: *The Post-American World* by Fareed Zakaria
- May: *The Happiness Myth* by Jennifer Michael Hecht

Note: Some of these books have long lists at the library, so you might want to get on the list asap if you plan to get them from there.

Moms' Coffee Night - April 29

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at ***Something Sweet***, 5319 E. Speedway (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly, east of Craycroft) from 7:30 p.m. to midnight (or any time in between)

Dads' Coffee Night - April 1

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



**We will meet at
McCORMICK PARK
(2950 N. Columbus Blvd)
every Tuesday for the
month of APRIL.**

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

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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."