



Inside SDH

Volume 1, Issue 3 August 2004

First Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers Park Day is August 17, 10:30 a.m. at Ft. Lowell Park

We Need You!

Do you like meeting new people, talking about Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers, and answering questions about homeschooling? If you do, consider being a part of

SDH's Newcomer Liaison Committee. Each month committee members take turns being available at Park meetings to greet new people, hand out Newcomer Packets and answer

questions about SDH and homeschooling. If you are interested, contact Lisa F., Debbie G., Heather M., Christine G. or Eileen D.

Fishin'

by Gabbie V.

My family and I left on a Thursday and headed to Colorado. My dad drove and my sister and I sat in the middle seats. We couldn't fit in the back because of all our camping stuff. We had a water-proof tent. So if it rained we would stay dry, no dribbles at all. It was really chilly and the wind blew hard but it didn't rain. We camped and fished. I caught a 14 inch fish. Biggest fish I ever saw! We

had fun. The last day of fishing my sister, Hannah, caught a catfish. One night we had to go to a hotel because it was so windy. We thought the tent was going to blow over.

After five days of camping and fishing we drove to Chicago. We met my mom at the airport. What was great about Chicago was the American Girl Place. We had lunch with our American Girl dolls. They had their own special chairs. That was a lot of fun. We also got to visit our friends

and play, play, play.

Then we went to St. Louis. It was a lot of fun at my grandma's house. The saddest part of my trip was seeing my nana. She is really sick. We also went to Indiana to visit my great aunt. And finally our trip was over.

We were gone for 3 weeks. I did get a little homesick. I missed my bedroom, house and my pet turtle. The End.

UAPresents Second Sign Up

by Alica M.

To sign up for any of the following shows, please list how many kids and adults for each show and include a check made out to the University of Arizona. Seats are \$5 per person. The second sign-up deadline is September 21. Please contact Alica M. for more info.

Les Percussions de Guinee,
Wednesday October 20, 9:30 a.m.
By the Hand of the Father, Tuesday
November 16, 10 a.m.
The Peking Acrobats, Wednesday
February 2, 10 a.m.
Pilobolus Dance Theater, Tuesday
February 15, 10 a.m.
Kevin Locke, Friday March 4, 10 a.m.

Momix, Tuesday March 22, 10 a.m.

The Who's Who List

by Lisa F.

Each year at the Parents Organizational Meeting members of SDH volunteer to do various jobs that help keep SDH running smoothly. The resulting list is called the Who's Who List. Clip this list and save it for reference or get a copy from the [SDH-newsletter group](#).

If you have any changes, or corrections, please contact Lisa F.. Here are the jobs that have been filled for this year.

Announcement Leader: Leads announcements at weekly park meetings. Sybelle V. and Lori W.

Announcement Bulletin Board: Maintains park day bulletin board of announcements/info. Sharon A.

Arizona Opera: Organizes group tickets to AZ Opera student dress rehearsals (3rd grade and higher). Lisa F.

Arizona Theater Company: Organizes group tickets to ATC student matinees. Lisa F.

Athletes in Training: Coordinates with AIT to provide weekly physical education programs. Eileen D.

Chess Club: Organizes monthly non-park meeting for children ages 8-18, and parents. Bob B. and Lisa F.

Children's Reading Groups: Organizes monthly meeting at park for children to discuss selected books. Heidi H. and Erin S.

City-wide SDH Representative: Interacts with representatives of other local homeschooling groups at [monthly] meeting. Lisa F. and Debbie G.

Clothing Exchange: Organize Fall and Spring Clothing Exchange.

Christine G.

Cookie Exchange Coordinator: Organize park day cookie exchange (12/14/04). Theresa W. and Anna C.

Curriculum Exchange: Organize fall park day exchange of educational materials. Sybelle V.

Email Requests for [SDH Info](#)

Responds to email inquiries
Debbie G. and Erin S.

Festival of Lights Coordinator: Organizes decoration of SDH tree for Reid Park Zoo (date to be determined). Ornament making at park on 11/16/04. Ann V.

Group Archivist and Historian: Debbie G.

Group Photograph: Organizes park day group photo (2/14/05). Claire B.

Halloween Party: Organizes park day Halloween party (10/26/04). Tara O.

History Group & National History Day Coordinator: Debbie G.

Homeschool Information Nights: Organizes semi-annual info night at local library. Karen M.

Ladies' Coffee Night: Contact for monthly women's discussion group. Kim B.

Math Fun: Organizes math activities for high school students. Debbie G.

May Day Party: Organizes park day May Day party (5/3/05). Giovanna M.

Media Representatives: Responds to media requests for homeschooling info. Lisa F., Amy G. and Debbie G.

Membership Roster: Organizes and distributes membership roster semi-annually. Sybelle V.

Men's Night: Contact for monthly men's discussion group. Jeff O. and Brian M.

Multi-Cultural Festival: Organizes park day festival (3/15/05). Brandy

F. and Anna C.

Music Recitals: Organizes semi-annual, non-park music recitals (12/2/04 and 5/5/05). Victoria M.

New Homeschooler Contacts: SDH Contacts specified by name and phone number with Pima County Superintendent of Public Instruction. Lara B., Eileen G. and Karen M.

Newcomer Liaison Committee: Develops/updates membership information, distributes membership packets, park day new member greeters, organizes new members' coffees. Eileen D., Christine G., Debbie G., Heather M., Lisa F.

Newsletter Publication and Distribution: Publishes and distributes monthly newsletter from SDH member submissions. Erin S. and Eileen D.

Parent's Meeting Facilitator: Organize and schedule monthly topical discussions for parents only. Kim B., Sharon A. and Anna C.

Pre-Teen/Teen Discussion Group: Facilitates monthly park day meeting of students 12-18 to discuss selected topic. Brian M.

Roots and Shoots: Heather M.

Sabino Canyon Field Trip: Organize archeological and environmental field trip to Sabino Canyon. Lou K.

Scholastic Books: Distributes and collects Scholastic Book orders. Sharon A.

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The Who's Who List

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Science Coordinator: Distributes info on homeschooling and county science fairs; coordinates park day science activities. Lou K.

Secretary: Prepares minutes of park day meeting announcements. Debbie G.

T-Shirt Coordinator: Collects money for, and organizes purchase of, SDH t-shirts, etc. Sharon A.

Ted Walker Day: Coordinates tickets to free day at Old Tucson. Lisa F.

Treasurer: Collects dues, reimburses expenses and provides monthly treasurer reports. Claire B. and Teresa B.

UAPresents: Organizes group tickets to UAPresents student matinees. Alica M.

Valentine Party: Coordinate park day Valentine's Day party (2/15/05). Sybelle V.

Webmaster: Maintains SDH web site. Debbie G.

Web Site Calendar: Maintains SDH web site calendar. Lisa F.

Who's Who List: Updates this list. Lisa F.

Yahoo Group Administrator: Administrator of SDH email discussion group on Yahoo.com. Sharon A.

Chess Club

Chess club continues to meet each month. For August, please note that the 3rd week's meeting is a different day this month only.

August 5th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship Church

August 12th, 6:30- 8:30 p.m. at Bookman's, Grant/Campbell

(Wednesday), August 18th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Columbus Library Meeting Room, Columbus/22nd St.

August 26th, 6:00- 8:00 p.m. at Beyond Bread, Campbell just North of Glenn.

September: all on Thursdays

September 2nd, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at

Shalom Mennonite Fellowship

September 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bookman's on Grant

All Remaining Thursdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Beyond Bread, Campbell N. of Glenn. Contact Bob B.

Show and Tell

by Erin S.

Where: Ft. Lowell Park

When: August 24th, 11:15

Who: Children of all ages

What to Bring: Something from the child's summer experiences is requested, but anything will be fine.

Please contact Erin S. if you have any questions.

Fun Web Sites

by Sybelle V.

This is a **very** cool web site about ["upside down" maps!!!](#)

This is from the [National Toy Hall of Fame](#). Each toy is represented by a picture. When you click on the picture, it gives you the history of the toy.

Free, or Nearly Free

by Erin S.

Many organizations around Tucson are offering free, or nearly free, activities for families. To find out more, please visit the SDH web site. There is a link on the left titled [Free or Nearly Free](#).

Additionally, if you hear of a fun, free family opportunity, let me know so we can add it to our list.

The 8th Annual Rethinking Education Conference

by Sybelle V.

We spent Memorial Day weekend at the 8th Annual Rethinking Education Conference in Irving, TX (that's the Dallas area). This was our third time attending this Un-schooler's conference. The 3 1/2 day event is held at a large hotel with an outdoor pool on the 15th floor. All the attending families stay at the hotel and the conference is held on the first floor. It is a fun and safe place for kids to explore. The conference is very kid-friendly and there are many things organized for the children to do such as: story-telling, drumming, yoga for kids, time and money bingo, twig weaving, wire people making, a paper airplane workshop, rock-paper-scissors contest, metal sculpture, egg drop contest, medieval games, playing in a skit, making music, painting, mother-daughter self-defense, juggling, making goo and hip-hop jazz dance. Kids could also choose to play pool, go swimming, build a city out of appliance boxes, read in the book room, or watch a movie. The movies ran all day long with topics such as science, biographies, dance, and comedies. Toddlers could play in the rumpus room. There were different treasure hunts for kids (and Beatles trivia for adults). You could usually find a child or parent playing the piano, while many played the board games that people had brought. Of course, children were allowed to go in and out of the workshops to be with parents at any time. The teens had a room for themselves, where they organized activities and got ready for the yearly "unprom," which ap-

parently is a lot of fun!

Some of the workshops Arnold and I attended were fabulous. Bruce Williamson, organized the "ice breaker" games the first evening, that had us laughing out loud and connecting with people we had never met before. The next morning we went back to his workshop titled "Rediscovering the Power of Play", in which he helped us discover ways to be a "child-like grown-up." Bruce showed us his own toy box that he carries everywhere. It has a ping pong ball that lights up when you hold it (you conduct the electricity with your fingers), a magic coloring book, a fold-up hula hoop and a lot more. His last workshop was about creative thinking and taking your ideas from dreams to reality. Bruce is inspiring and see his [web page](#) about play and discovering life. Another speaker we liked a lot is Michael Mendizza. He has worked extensively with Joseph Chilton Pearce, who wrote "Magical Child" and many more books. Michael developed a theory on the state parent and child ideally would be in to optimize learning. He calls it "Optimum Learning Relationships" and likens it to "the Zone," the state athletes are in when they perform best. He is a great speaker and had us all wanting more. We got our wish when he did a second workshop. Through his [web page](#) you can find out more about him and what he does. A couple of weeks ago he emailed that he was organizing a teleconference with Jean Liedloff. Then there was Laurence Becker, who is an older, very wise, and funny man. I could listen to him for hours.

His workshop, like the others, was interactive and we learned about creating learning environments that nurture creativity. He also did a presentation on the Dvorak keyboard, which I may write more about next month.

Of course we went to the Un-schooled Teen's Panel, where parents get to ask the teens any question they want to. Arnold enjoyed the "For Dad's Only" discussion group and I attended an interesting talk on apprenticeships. Every time we go, we have fun with the Saturday night drum circle, where the very young and old, drum and dance until very late (early). The talent show on Sunday evening is so fun! There was a band of two dads and sons, a mother-daughter tap dance duo, a boy walking on his hands, a 55 year old singing a song and many kids singing, playing instruments, dancing, doing martial arts, etc. Ingo and Bibi showed some of the Kung Fu they have learned so far. At the end of the conference (and after buying just a "little something in the exhibit hall) we all felt happy, satisfied and really, really tired.

It was worth the drive to Texas for our family to have such a good time together.

Annual Curriculum Exchange

By Sybelle V.

Some of us may be getting ready for a new "school" year by sorting and organizing closets. We will have our curriculum exchange during park day on September 21. Anything you have used (or maybe *not* used) with your children can be brought for the exchange. This includes curriculum, books, manipulatives, music, computer games, board/card games, workbooks (you know, the ones

you've only done two pages out of), art/craft materials, videos, puzzles. Anything you could learn from! If you are selling, you can set up your own table or blanket with your items. Do not count on the ramada being available. Remember to bring some money in case you want to buy, and bring change if you are selling. We tend to ask small prices for things in general and it is a lot of fun. I have an important request: PLEASE wait to set

up until AFTER announcements. When set up is done prior to announcements, announcements are disrupted. Just leave your things in your car and get them when announcements are over, or bring them in a closed box.

Any questions or comments, call or email me, I'm on the roster!

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers Roots & Shoots Club

by Heather M.

Roots & Shoots is the Jane Goodall Institute's international environmental and humanitarian program for young people. Its mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for the environment, animals and the human community.

You can read more about it at the [Jane Goodall website](#).

We'll be meeting 1st & 3rd & 5th

Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon (usually). We are keeping things as simple as possible, so no dues, no officers. The only requirement is that you be a member of SDH. We will rotate responsibility for each meeting. If you want to join Roots & Shoots or ask questions, just contact me, Heather M.

This summer we participated in two service projects: making dream catchers with senior citizens at a nursing home and collecting and delivering school supplies to New Beginnings.

Friday, Aug 20. Roots & Shoots kick-off celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Heather M.'s house. Learn about Roots & Shoots. Get to know each other. Make plans for the fall. Scavenger hunt. Followed with a potluck lunch and swimming. To bring: good ideas, potluck dish to share, swimsuits, towels. Please RSVP.

Children's Book Discussion Groups

by Erin S. and Heidi H.

Once a month, three reading groups meet at 10:30 a.m. at Park Day to discuss books we have read. The groups are divided up by reading level, not age. Your child can read one of the books that are at his or her level. If your child cannot read the books yet, you are welcome to read the book to them so that they

can participate in the discussion and get to know the other children.

August 3 (Meet at St. Francis in the Foothills Church. See Summer Tuesdays article on page 6)

Group 1: *Sammy the Seal* by Syd Hoff

Group 2: *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary

Group 3: *Gypsy Rizka* by Lloyd Alexander

September 7 (Ft. Lowell Park)

Group 1: *No Fighting, No Biting* by Else Holmelund Minarik

Group 2: *Snow Treasure* by Marie McSwigan

Group 3: *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh* by Robert C. O'Brien

Mathematical Mystery Tour Class

by Debbie G.

I've been getting slow but steady response to the math club. Right now, three kids are interested. I hope to have the club running by the end of September, and I will have more details in the September newsletter. If you want to find out

more about the club, please check the [June newsletter](#), or contact me by [email](#). If you want to take a look at the book we will use, *A Mathematical Mystery Tour: Higher-Thinking Math Tasks*, by Mark Wahl, the public library has a copy,

plus you can find descriptions and reviews on the Internet. Thanks!

Backyard Wildlife Rescue

by Amanda O.

We've rescued a lot of birds over the summer, including an American Kestrel, quail eggs that weren't fertilized and a baby dove. We took them to wildlife rehabilitators. One of the women we took the quail eggs to had baby quail the size of a

quarter and baby hummingbirds that were the size of a jellybean when she first got them. The hummingbirds had made their nest on a string of Christmas lights. The other rehabilitators where we brought the Kestrel had lots of raptors. They were feeding one bird

raw meat using tweezers when we got there. It was a good experience taking the birds to the wildlife rehabilitators. If you find a bird, bunny, raptors or other wildlife, you can call 903-1104 and they will tell you what to do.

SDH Talent Show

By Sybelle V. and Eileen D.

Come to watch, or to participate in the first annual SDH Talent Show on October 16 at 3:00 p.m. Please contact us if you think you would like to participate. Also, let us know what you will need in order to showcase your talent. For example, do you need a large stage, mats or music? What talent would you like to show SDH members, friends and family? You could do martial arts, gymnastics, dance, magic, recite a poem, do a comedy routine or perform a short skit with your friends. The possibilities are endless. All ages, including parents, are encouraged to participate.

SDH Summer Tuesday

by Erin S.

The last summer Tuesday activity will take place on August 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plan to bring your lunch and swim afterwards (location to be determined).

If you have any questions, please contact Erin S.

Location: St. Francis UMC 4625 E. River Rd. Room #50 (NW corner of River Rd. and Swan).

August 3

Reader's Groups

Group 1: *Sammy the Seal* by Syd Hoff

Group 2: *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary

Group 3: *Gypsy Rizka* by Lloyd Alexander

Fun Food Day

Fruit sculptures, Grossology foods, ice cream in a bag.

Supplies to bring: Ziploc freezer bags, toothpicks, skewers, fruit, ice cream toppings

This Month's Featured Web Sites

by Debbie G.

Visit the [SDH Featured Web Sites](#), and check out [past collections](#).

[Desert Questions and Answers From the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum](#)

The questions and answers, taken from the museum's Book of Answers, cover the Sonoran Desert's natural history, discuss ways to live with the desert's wildlife, and give tips for enjoying the desert.

[Kitt Peak National Observatory's Educational Resources](#)

Want to find out what Kitt Peak offers children? Check this page to find about the observatory's programs for families.

[Colossal Cave Mountain Park](#)

Take a virtual tour, learn about the park's wildlife, and discover the cave's history.

[Birch Aquarium's Online Games](#)

Play the Seahorse Anatomy or Seahorse Environment games, and find out ways kelp is used every day

[Exporatorium](#)

Visit San Francisco's Exporatorium from Tucson!

My Gymnastics Camp

By Danni H.

This summer I went to a gymnastics camp. It was really, really cool. It was for five days and it was from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We got lunch and snack. After lunch we got to go outside and do water games or

watch a movie. On the last day the gym did a show for the parents. It was really fun.

Poetry Café

by Erin S.

The next Poetry Café will be September 18th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bring an original poem, or an old favorite, and share it with the group. More details will be in the September newsletter.

Music/Dance Recital

by Victoria M.

Get ready for the Music Recitals! The Winter Recital is on Thursday, December 2 at 3 p.m. at Washburn Piano. The Spring Recital will be Thursday, May 5 also at Washburn at 3 p.m. There is a stage with room for dancing, singing or playing an instrument. There is also a full size

grand piano. All skill levels are encouraged to participate. There is plenty of seating, so even if your child doesn't want to perform you can come and watch the other children do so. Contact Victoria M. between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. to sign up.

Colossal Cave Tour

by Erin S.

A group tour of Colossal Cave has been scheduled for Thursday, August 5th at 1 p.m. The cost is \$4.25 for 13 and up and \$2.50 for children. The parking fee is waived. The tour will be 45-50 minutes long. Please contact Erin S. for more information.

A Brief History of SDH

by Debbie G.

When SDH was founded in 1999, it was decided that all members would be equal, that everyone would have the same power within the group. The intent was to avoid ever having one person or group of people dictating policy, making decisions, or deciding membership for the rest of the group. Instead, all necessary decisions would be brought before the entire SDH membership for voting.

Most of the votes taken over the ensuing five years have been about the spending of SDH money. Early in the group's existence, a limit was set for spending that needed to be approved by the membership. A \$75.00 cap was created - amounts less than \$75.00 were to be simply reimbursed to the member upon submission to the treasurer of a receipt and a description of the expense; amounts \$75.00 and over were to be approved by the SDH membership with a vote.

How does this work in real life for members planning a project, event, or activity for the group? First, make sure that the proposed project fits within the parameters of the SDH mission statement - will this be something that anyone in

the group could participate in? If the answer is yes, then get an idea of what the expenses will be for the project - if the cost will be less than \$75.00, nothing more needs to be done (except the easy part, like planning, generating interest, making it happen...). If the cost will be at least \$75.00, then the group needs to be notified about a vote two weeks in advance. Probably the simplest way to notify everyone is to write a brief article for *Inside SDH*, the group's newsletter, plus make an announcement about it at park day.

What if the vote turns down the proposed spending? Then it's time to re-evaluate - is there a way to reduce the project's cost? Could the project's participants share some of the expenses? Remember: a "no" vote does not mean that the project is not allowed by SDH; it means simply that SDH members did not want to use group funds for it.

And something else to remember is that SDH membership is not limiting. All members are free to organize any sort of project, regardless of the SDH mission statement. That project, though, would be independent of SDH - it would be

neither offered by SDH, nor endorsed by SDH. But all SDH members remain completely autonomous, able to organize an Anti-SDH club or any other subversive undertaking that interests them. Just as membership is automatic upon paying the membership fee, continued membership is also automatic - no one can be voted off the island. SDH was established as a network for homeschoolers. That is the group's greatest strength, that by connecting almost 100 families, the potential exists for terrific things to happen. Whether it is a high school biology class, a Brownie troop, a Medieval Festival, a chess club, an Odyssey of the Mind team, or some teenagers simply getting together to talk, SDH provides a way for people to meet like-minded folks and create opportunities for our children to have fun and learn.

SDH P.E. Classes

by Eileen D.

The first days of Athletes in Training (AIT) P.E. classes are September 5 and 6. Monday class is at Himmel park from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday class will be at Ft. Lowell Park from 9 to 10 a.m., September 2004

to May 2005. The program is for ages 5 and up and the cost is \$15 per month for one child with discounts for additional children. Discounts are also given for paying in annual or quarterly payments. Monday, August 30 is a free trial day

for the Monday class and August 31 is a free trial day for the Tuesday class.

Each month typically starts a new sport, so you can start the class any month you choose or you can participate all year.

My Trip to Texas

by Hunter B. I went to see my Nana in Plainview, Texas. And my cousin Katie Beth and my cousin Bryce. I visited for ten days. I had a lot of fun at my Nana's house. The time passed so quick that it seemed like only one day had passed before I had to leave. My Nana works at an Allstate office. She works on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I went to

the office on Friday and Monday. Me and my Papa went and got an ice cream. I got to watch TV in my uncle's office. My Papa owns the Allstate office.

Nana gave me and my cousins an above-ground pool in her front yard. We swam in it everyday. My cousin Katie Beth had an early birthday party. I gave her

peaches. We rented DVD's. We watched Dogs and Cats. Then I went home on an airplane after the ten days were over. I got to go in the cockpit. I saw lots of switches, levers, and controls. There are controls on the ceiling! I got to drink orange juice. I had a good trip returning into Phoenix. I got pretty dizzy on the airplane. The End.

Freezing Cold Water Experiment

by Connor S.
July 7, 2004

What We Used: salt, water, cups

What We Did: We wanted to see if salt water would freeze faster than regular water. We figured this out by putting plain water in one cup, and salt water in the other cup. We used a spoonful of salt.

What Happened: The plain water froze faster than the salt water. The salt slowed down the freezing.

Gymnastics Camp

by Bibiana V.

I did a gymnastics camp. I really, really liked it. I liked flipping into the pit from the trampoline. We played games at the end of every day. The coaches were nice. I liked my coach. His name is Titus. We liked to watch him do tricks when we had a break for snack or lunch. The last day we didn't go to the gym. We went to the Cove. It is a pool in Sierra Vista and it has lots of waves and it was lots and lots of fun. The end.

Golf

by Ingo V.

I did a junior golf clinic at the Turquoise Hills golf course in Benson for two weeks. It was really, really good. They are very friendly to you there and they treat you with respect. I liked the tournament at the end. There were trophies for first, second and third place. I got a medalion. If I gave them a rating of how well they did, I would give them 4 stars. Jim, the pro-shop manager, is the nicest man. All my classmates and I worked very hard to achieve our goals and we had lots of fun!

Joke

by Sierra M.
Little fishy swimming in the sea
Little fishy looks up
She sees something

She swims up
She eats it
Uh-oh!
She goes up

She gets eaten.
(it was a fishing hook!)

Fall Clothing Exchange

by Christine G.
When: Tuesday, October 5
Clean out your closets and bring your outgrown, unused, but still usable clothes for someone else to enjoy. Take home something that you can use. Any excess will be donated to a local women and children's shelter.

Tucson Reptile Show

The [2004 Tucson Reptile Show and Sale](#) will be August 28th and 29th at the Roadway Inn Event Center at Grant and I-10. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Entry fees are \$6/adult and \$3/children 6-12. Entry fee covers both days.

Monthly Parent Opportunities

Every month of the year, SDH has opportunities for parents to meet, talk and get to know each other better.

Mom's Coffee Night

Currently Mom's Coffee Night is held on the last Wednesday of every month at Something Sweet located at 5319 E. Speedway. That's at the NE corner of Speedway and Beverly (the Office Depot store is on the intersection's NW corner), and Live Theater Workshop is in the same plaza. We get together at 7:30 p.m. but don't worry if you can't make it at 7:30, many of us stay until midnight! We chat, laugh, and generally have a

great time. It is a great way to get to know others better and there is always a mix of parents with younger or older children so you can ask lots of questions. Contact Kim B. if you'd like more information.

Men's Coffee Night

Men's Coffee Night is held the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for fathers to discuss homeschooling issues, as well as other topics. Please join us at the Borders on Oracle, for coffee, tea, good company and conversation. This casual meeting starts around 7:30 p.m. Contact Jeff O. or Brian M. for more information.

Adult Book Discussion Group

Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from America's Unfinished Civil War by Tony Horwitz

Date: Thursday, August 19th
Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Something Sweet 5319 E. Speedway

Looking ahead:

September 16

House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

October 21

Opposite of Fate by Amy Tan

November 18

Opening Skinners Box by Lauren Slater

For questions, contact Erin S..

Upcoming Events

September:

Chess Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., September 2 at Shalom Mennonite Fellowship

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., September 3

1st PE Classes, 9 a.m., September 6th at Himmel Park and September 7th at Ft. Lowell Park

Chess Club, September 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bookman's, on Grant

"Welcome Back" party on September 14th at Ft. Lowell Park

Adult Book Discussion, September 16th, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Chess Club, 6:00-8:00 p.m., September 16th at Beyond Bread, Campbell N. of Glenn

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., September 17

Poetry Café, 5 to 7 p.m., September 18th at St. Francis

Curriculum Exchange on September

21st at Ft. Lowell Park

Chess Club, 6:00-8:00 p.m., September 25 at Beyond Bread, Campbell N. of Glenn

October:

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., October 1

Fall Clothing Exchange on October 5th at Ft. Lowell Park

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., October 15

Talent Show, 3:00 p.m., October 16th

UAPresents Les Percussions De Guinee, Wednesday, Oct 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Book Discussion, October 21st, 7 p.m. at Something Sweet

Halloween Party on October 26th at Ft. Lowell Park

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., October 29

Newcomer Welcome Meeting, date and time to be determined.

November

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., November 5

UAPresents, By the Hand of the Father, November 16 at 10 a.m.

Make ornaments for the Tucson Zoo lights event, November 16 at Ft. Lowell park.

Roots & Shoots, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., November 19

SDH Membership Form

To Join SDH, return this form and \$10 (\$5 after January 1st) to either a Newcomer Committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or SDHs' treasurers Claire B. or Teresa B.

Parents' Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Child(ren) Name(s) and Birthdate(s) (MM/YY) _____

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers FAQs

About SDH

- SDH is a home education network serving homeschoolers throughout Tucson and Southern Arizona.
- SDH was founded in January 1999.
- Over the years, an average of 95 families are SDH members, with children from infants through teenagers.
- SDH meets for weekly park meetings from mid-August through mid-May.

What are the benefits of joining?

- Every month, Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers Newsletter will be sent to you either electronically or by mail.
- Get the SDH membership roster, plus regular updates.
- Participate in SDH-discuss, an e-mail list restricted to current members of SDH.
- Participate in and help organize SDH group activities for your children and children of all ages.

What does it cost?

- \$10.00 per year (after January, the fee is reduced to \$5 for the remainder of the year—SDH years run August through July)

How do I join SDH?

- To join, come to the Tuesday park meeting—you can submit the above form plus the fee to a newcomer committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or to Treasurers Claire B. or Teresa B.

[Questions](#)

From the Editors

As you read this months newsletter, keep in mind that SDH is a volunteer run organization. The events and activities listed reflect the interests of a varied membership. It is essential to the viability of the group that people organize activi-

ties and events that appeal to their families. Families can find lifelong friends, and interests, through the planning and involvement of everyone. Please, if you have special interests you don't see represented here, plan something to introduce

your, or your child's, passion to the group.

We look forward to an exciting year filled with new adventures with our extended homeschooling family.

[Erin S. and Eileen D.](#)



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."

August 2004

For more information about the events listed on this calendar, see the newsletter articles.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|--|---|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 SDH Summer Tuesday Activities and Book Discussion at St. Frances UMC 10:30 a.m.—1 p.m. | 4 Men's Coffee Night 7:30 p.m. Borders | 5 Colossal Cave Tour 1 p.m. Chess Club 6:30—8:30 p.m. Shalom Mennonite Church | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Chess Club 6:30—8:30 p.m. Bookman's Grant/Campbell | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 First SDH Park Day Ft. Lowell park, 10:30 a.m. Announcements at 11 a.m. | 18 Chess Club 6-8 p.m. Columbus Library | 19 Adult Book Discussion Something Sweet, 7 p.m. | 20 Roots & Shoots kick-off celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Heather M.'s house | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 SDH Park Day Ft. Lowell park, 10:30 a.m. Show and Tell 11:15 a.m. Announcements at 11 a.m. | 25 Mom's Coffee Night 7:30 p.m. Something Sweet September <i>Inside SDH</i> newsletter deadline | 26 Chess Club 6—8 p.m. Beyond Bread | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Free SDH PE Trial Day, Himmel Park, 9 a.m. | 31 Free SDH PE Trial Day, Ft. Lowell park, 9 a.m. SDH Park Day Ft. Lowell park, 10:30 a.m. Announcements at 11 a.m. | | 29 | 30 | 31 |