

# Inside SDH



Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • February 2009



## VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION AND PHOTO DAY

by Shelley M.

Valentine's Day is almost here! The celebration will be on February 17, the Tuesday parkday after Valentine's Day at McCormick Park. This year we will have a card exchange, shirt signing, cookie decorating, and our group photo.

The card exchange will start at 10:30, that way anyone wishing to avoid it can come later. T-shirt signing will be ongoing. I will bring markers and leave them out on a table. The group photo will be right after announcements, with cookie decorating following the group photo. I am vegan, so the cookies, frosting, etc. will be dairy and egg free. If you have other dietary concerns please contact me or bring your own supplies.

## PARKDAY VOTING

by Lara B.

On January 27 the vote was held for which park we would like to make our permanent Tuesday parkday. The vote was 25 for McCormick Park and 10 for Ft. Lowell Park.

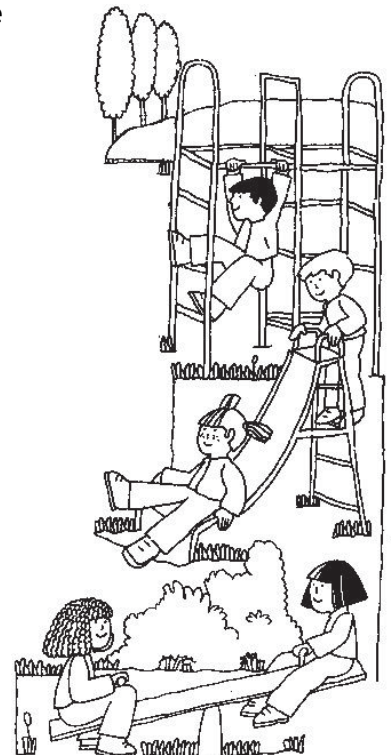
It is clear that many people would like to have the official parkday alternating between Ft. Lowell and McCormick Parks. There were even people who decided not to vote because their family was torn between the two parks. ***So we will have yet another vote on the parks on February 17.***

This time the vote will be for or against monthly alternations between Ft. Lowell Park and McCormick Park. If the yes vote wins, it would mean the alternating would be each calendar month between the two parks. And if the no vote wins it would mean that McCormick Park only would be Tuesday's official parkday. The alternating schedule we will be voting on is this:

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

**Don't miss the vote  
at parkday  
on February 17!**

If you do not come to parkday on February 17 to vote during announcements, but still would like to vote, then please send your vote by proxy with someone who is going. I too am willing to take anyone's proxy votes. You can call me, or email me your proxy vote anytime before voting day. (If you email it to me the morning of parkday, I may not get it.) Just a note, February 17 was settled on as voting day because it is the same day as the Valentine's celebration and there will likely be a lot of people there already that day.





## TWILIGHT SERIES BOOK DISCUSSION

by Kim B.

I will be leading a discussion about the Twilight book series at the park on Tuesday, February 10. We'll start at noon and have a discussion about all four books. This is for girls and moms.

## UA presents

by Alica M.

Thursday, February 19 is *Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana*. We will meet in front of Centennial Hall at 10:00 a.m. We will be seated as a group by 10:15 a.m. and the show begins at 10:30 a.m. Please allow for time to park down by the university. If you have any questions please contact me.

## SDH LEGO CLUB

by Kim B.

I am interested in starting an SDH Lego Club for our Lego-obsessed kids! The first meeting will be Friday, February 20 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Library meeting room. The kids can bring their Lego's and build to their hearts content, and have feedback from other Lego builders. We will keep the Lego's separate but it should still be fun for the kids to build and talk and check out all of their cool creations.

This is for all ages, but you must stay if your child is under 9 years old. I don't mind staying with the older kids, but don't want to be a babysitter to younger ones. Remember that Lego's are a choking hazard for very young children. The kids don't have to stay for the whole 3 hours – come and go as you please.

## STAR WARS CLUB

by Kim B.

Do your kids love Star Wars? Like to fight with light sabers? Make you crazy talking about the Force, Darth Vader, and Star Destroyers? Have them come to the Star Wars Club meeting and they can talk to each other. We will meet on Thursday, February 26 at 11:00 a.m. at Himmel Park. I'm not giving a class or anything – just providing a time for Star Wars fans to have fun together.

So bring your light sabers, action figures, Lego's, costumes, or anything else you can think of. We can have some fun Star Wars inspired activities. I'll come up with a trivia game to play.

Since it is at a park, parents will need to stay with their children. If this is a problem, talk to me or ask a friend to watch your child(ren).

## HIGH SCHOOL DRAWING CLASSES

by Victoria M.

I am trying to set up a drawing class at the Drawing Studio. Although it is geared for high school students, any student who is interested and able to sit for three hours and draw (with a short break) is welcome. If I am able to find ten students, the class will likely begin in early March, for 8 weeks, three hours a week, probably on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00. Please call me if you have any questions and to make sure you are on my list. Thanks so much!

## SPRING MUSIC RECITAL by Victoria M.

The Spring Music Recital is scheduled for May 7, the first Thursday in May. I am hoping to have it again at the Armory Park Senior Center downtown, just east of the Children's Museum.

It will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Call or email me with any questions, or to be added to the program.

In the past we have had fun getting the students together to play an ensemble song. I thought that this time we could try "My Country 'Tis of Thee" in the key of G. If this is a difficult key, or if anyone needs any help with notes or lyrics, please call or email me.



## ROOTS & SHOOTS EARTH SCOUTS by Lara B.

### • *Spring Camping*

We're camping again at the Colossal Cave campsite. We went last year and loved it, but we're going earlier this year because it was a bit too hot last time. I heard from a number of people that they'd like to go back to that site if we go when it's cooler. So we're set for Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29.

This year we will do a community service project for them, which will be on Saturday morning for 2 hours. When it's closer we should know exactly what it will be, as it will be what's needed at the time. Things it could be are: picking up trash in certain places where it accumulates, various things at their ranch with the stables and/or horses, painting picnic benches, etc. She may pick a few different things for us to do based on our ages, so that everyone from very little through teens will have something appropriate to do. Everyone who participates in the two-hour community service will receive a free pass into Colossal Cave that you can use at a later date. (We're camping during a blackout time for passes and coupons. You can however go up anytime and pay, and go in with the next regular public tour if you want to tour Colossal Cave while you are there camping!)

Because we are a scout group, they are letting us camp for free! So, free camping and earning a free Colossal Cave tour is a pretty good deal! The group campsite where we will be camping is El Bosquecito, and it is in the center of the second map here: [www.colossalcave.com/map.html](http://www.colossalcave.com/map.html)

There is one big built fire-pit in the center of the group campsite where we'll have a fire each night. There's a grill over it so it can be used to cook on as well. Each family space within the campsite has a barbeque grill and picnic table. There are two campsite water spigots, and a waterless bathroom (one for boys, one for girls). Each family will bring their own tent and camping supplies and food, etc. And if you want to bring some firewood to contribute to the group campfire, that would be great! And don't forget smores stuff! A little wash runs right by the campsite, and is lots'a fun to walk in.

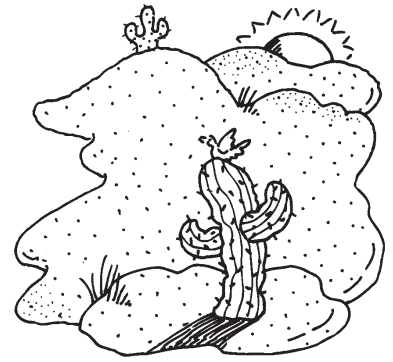
Please RSVP to me by March 3, with number of people and ages of kiddos who will be doing the service project. As always, this is open to all SDH members!

### • *Hiking*

We will be hiking on an ongoing basis, about twice a month, alternating between Fridays and Saturdays. No RSVP is required, but please be on time so you are not left behind.

First February hike will be at Sabino Canyon on Saturday, February 7 at 12:00 p.m. Entrance fee is \$5 per car, or \$20 annual pass (that is the same one that is used for Mt Lemmon). This hike will consist of first walking along the paved tram road for about 3/4 mile, turn right onto the trailhead, and following that trail which circles around a mountain and takes you right back to the visitor center and parking lot. It looks to be about 2 miles total, maybe a bit less. It's somewhat of a rugged trail, but it's not that bad. (My then 5 year old did it.) There is a stop where the creek runs, so it's really fun for the kids. We'll meet at the visitor center outdoors by the ramada, after you come in and park.

Second February hike will be at Catalina State Park on Friday, February 20 at 12:00 p.m. We will do the nature trail loop, as well as the birding trail loop for those that would like to do a second one. They are supposed to be about a mile each, but they sure seem shorter. These are very family friendly trails, so even the littlest ones can participate. We'll meet at the trailhead loop at the very end of the Catalina State Park road. From Tucson go north on Oracle into Oro Valley, about a mile and a half after 1st Ave (if you get to Tangerine, you've gone too far), there is a new lighted intersection where you'll take a right into the Catalina State Park entrance. Entrance fee is \$6 per car, or \$50 for the annual pass (that is good for all state parks).



### CYT "Oliver!"

by Laura N.

I am now taking sign-ups for CYT's *Oliver!* school days showing on Thursday, March 19 at Crowder Hall on the U of A campus. If you would like to attend please contact me by February 19. The play is based on the book *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, so you and your kids might want to read the book before the show. Tickets for school days are \$5.00 per person. Payment (*made payable to CYT Tucson*) must be made in advance. No refunds are issued, so please make sure you can attend on that date. We meet as a group at the theater (no actual tickets issued) and go in to the play as a group. See [www.cyttucson.org](http://www.cyttucson.org) for more information.

## **SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES**



### ***Parents' Book Discussion Group - February 17***

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.

- February: *Why Good People Do Bad Things* by James Hollis
- March: *Mercy* by Jodi Picoult
- 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 - February 25***

Held on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Lara B., or post on SDH discuss, and a meeting place will be decided upon.

### ***Dads' Coffee Night - February 4***

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



**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."

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>