



Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • October 2007

SDH HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

by Heather H.

SDH's annual Halloween festival will be held on Tuesday, October 30 on our regular park day. Come dressed in your spooky (or not so spooky) finest and show it off. We will have the annual costume parade, followed by fun and games. In years past people have brought carnival-type games for the kids to play and handed out treats. Festivities will start directly after announcements. Parade will begin at noon. Come and join the fun!



TEEN CYBERBOWLING GAME DAY

by Donna J.

Teens, CyberBowl at Lucky Strike Bowl, Saturday, October 13 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We will also have some pizza and discuss possible teen activities for this coming year. If we have enough people for a group rate, bowling, including shoe rental, will be \$7. You will also need to bring enough money for pizza and a beverage, or whatever food you would like. RSVP as soon as possible, so we will know how many people are planning to attend and we can confirm costs and make a reservation. Two adults will chaperone, so parents don't need to stay for bowling. But parents, if you want to be in on the planning of teen activities, plan to stay or come back early so we can brainstorm ideas. Possibilities include:

hiking, Rocks and Ropes, a movie night, a Mt. Lemmon trip, or even volunteer work to help community organizations like the Food Bank. If you are planning to CyberBowl, you must RSVP, so we can make reservations and confirm the group rate, and coordinate with parents. Lucky Strike is located at 4015 E. Speedway (Speedway and Alvernon).

SDH TEE-SHIRTS

by Lara B.

I will be taking orders for SDH tee-shirts all month during park days. I will turn in my completed order at the end of October for processing. It will take at least two to three weeks for completion and shipping and then I will distribute them to everybody. You will be able to order a variety of tee-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, tote bags, and bumper stickers.

ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY MATINEES

by Donna J.

A reminder to those who have already signed up for Arizona Theatre Company's student matinees — two performances are scheduled in October. *George Gershwin Alone* will be presented on Tuesday, October 2 at 10:00 a.m. and *Touch the Names* is set for Friday, October 26, also at 10:00 a.m. Both performances will be held at the Temple of Music and Art in downtown Tucson at 330 S. Scott Ave. We will meet in front of the theater and be seated as a group. Please arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please call or email me. For a map and parking information, go to:

<http://www.aztheatreco.org/index.html?topbar.html&0>

For a play guide go to: <http://www.aztheatreco.org/index.html?topbar.html&0>



PUMPKIN PICKING - Amado/Arivaca

by Heidi H.

We will be going pumpkin picking on Monday, October 15 at 9:45 a.m. Meet at Longhorn Grill (I-19/Arivaca exit) No frills, organic pumpkins in Amado/Arivaca area. Short educational talk before picking (spiders I think). All pumpkins are \$3 and the owner usually serves juice and a few cookies per child. He usually has honey, squash and garlic for sale. Long pants, socks and shoes suggested. Everyone is invited to our house after picking. Bring your own lunch. We have a trampoline and menagerie. RSVP by October 8.



PUMPKIN PICKING - Agua Linda

by Bronwyn D.

I have reserved the afternoon of Monday, October 22 at 1:30 p.m. for a trip to Agua Linda Farm. This will be a time when there will be fewer school groups there. If people wish to caravan or carpool, post on the SDH discuss list. Otherwise, we will meet you down there at 1:30! The cost is \$5 per person and this includes the hayride to the pumpkin patch, the petting zoo, and the HayMaze. There are concession stands available or you can bring your own picnic meal/snacks.

Here is a little information about the farm from their website www.agualindafarm.net:

Agua Linda Farm is a sustainable, direct to consumer operation reminiscent of the diversified family farms of the past. We do not use chemical fertilizers or herbicides on our plants and our beef cows are grass pastured, antibiotic and hormone free. Our family is proud to offer our community an opportunity to re-connect with the rural farm experience. While providing seasonal, naturally grown and raised foods, we hope to educate and entertain our visitors.



If you have any questions please email me. See below for the alternative Agua Linda trip.

ALTERNATIVE AGUA LINDA TRIP

by Lara B.

Some of us are unable to attend the above Agua Linda Farms field trip, so I have set up an alternative date to do a separate trip. It will be on Wednesday, October 17, and you can RSVP directly to me. All information from this trip is the same as above, except for the day and new contact person (me). Please see above for Agua Linda information.

WINTER MUSIC RECITAL

Victoria M.

Our annual homeschool Winter Music Recital is set for Thursday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. Please invite all your musical homeschooled friends to participate or join us to listen to the music. This recital will be held at the Armory Park Senior Citizens' Recreation Center in downtown Tucson directly east (across 6th Avenue) from the Children's Museum. (I will provide directions as we get closer to the date.) All homeschoolers, whether beginners or advanced musicians, are welcome to play. Please contact me so that I can add your name to the program or answer any questions you may have.

HOME GROWN YOGA

by Teresa W.

Meet families for yoga practice, inspiration and socials. My desire is to offer an alternative to the yoga studio venue. I will demonstrate lighthearted home practice options and share novel tips that will ignite your passion for yoga, nurture you and enrich the little yoga buds in your family. This free monthly meet up is designed for yoga loving moms, dads or grandparents and their children ages 2 through 14 years old. Those new to yoga are always welcome. Together we will think outside the box and grow a fun and fruitful Family Yoga Practice. We will meet the second Saturday (or occasional Sunday) of the month. Join us one time or come regularly. The current schedule is October 13 and November 10 at 11:00 a.m., with a potluck following. Where: 3 miles west of Grant Rd. and I-10. Call me to RSVP or visit our webpage at <http://yoga.meetup.com> for more information.



UAPRESENTS SECOND SIGN UP

by Alica M.

For those of you who signed up with me after July 1, we were unable to get into Diavalo or the Nutcracker. We are on the waiting list and as soon as they send me a check I will refund everyone's money. If you have any questions please contact me or find me at the park (I have long red hair).

DIGGING IN FOR ROOTS & SHOOTS

by Lara B. and Liz H.

Roots & Shoots is a program of the Jane Goodall Institute (see www.rootsandshoots.org for more information) that involves children in projects and activities that promote care and concern for people, animals, and the environment. It is open to kids of all ages.

We will continue to run Roots & Shoots this year along the same informal model as last year. That is to say, we will have roughly two activities/trips/projects per month, all of which will be open to all SDH members and will be announced on the discuss list as well as in the newsletter and at park. Kids and families do not need to sign up for Roots & Shoots in order to participate in any particular activity.

We are having a follow-up planning meeting which is open to all interested families on Thursday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. in Conner Park (southside of Glenn Rd, between Tucson Blvd. and Campbell). At this meeting we will rough out an initial calendar of activities. Anyone interested in planning an activity (which can be anything related to care and concern for people, animals, or the environment – whether designed to increase knowledge and awareness or to take action) is invited to make some preliminary phone calls and gather information before this meeting! What we will need to know in order to go forward with an activity is:

- Is it appropriate for all ages? Normally whole families participate in R&S events, from babies in strollers to older teens.
- Is there any cost? Is there any way to waive or defray the cost? For example, can we do a small service project in exchange for a free presentation?
- Is there a limit to the number of people that can be accommodated? Participation in last year's activities ranged from 4 to 25 kids, plus 2 to 15 parents.
- How flexible is the scheduling? Is the activity only appropriate or available at a certain time of the year or day of the week?

We try to schedule R&S activities during the week (except Tuesday) anywhere from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but if an activity is only available evenings or weekends, that's when we will do it! So, if there is an organization or activity you would like to see Roots & Shoots work with this year, give them a call. If you can't attend the October 4 planning meeting, email any ideas and/or information to us.

Roots&Shoots



EARTH SCOUTS

by Bronwyn D.

Have you been searching for an alternative to traditional scouts? Do you try to teach or inspire in your children:

- Appreciation for one another's differences?
- Awe and a sense of wonder about nature and the cosmos?
- Independence and cooperation?
- Peaceful solutions to problems?

Earth Scouts <http://www.earthscouts.org/TheEarthCharter.htm> is a national program based on the *Earth Charter: A Declaration of Interdependence* with badges centered on five major principles: Universal Human Rights, Economic Justice (eliminating poverty), Participatory Democracy, Respect for Nature, and Peace and Nonviolence.

As a joint venture (since the intention of the founders of both groups are interrelated), we will be joining Roots & Shoots on many of their field trips and activities. In addition, Earth Scouts will be gathering weekly, or every two weeks, to focus on some larger community service projects and work toward badges that are based on the above principles.

Based on the first joint planning meeting (in September), the single greatest interest we all seem to have is *animals and animal welfare*. So we are starting there with many of our first field trips. There is also great interest in that much-beloved scouting tradition: camping. Obviously, this will be incorporated into our activities this year!

We are just starting out with Earth Scouts, so please email or call me if you are interested in taking part. And please join us for our follow-up planning meeting (kid participation welcome and encouraged!) on Thursday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Conner Park (see above R&S article for details).

ROOTS & SHOOTS PERMACULTURE GARDEN

by Lara B.

We will get together at Zita's house again on Wednesday, October 10 to see the end results of the permaculture garden that we dug and planted back in the spring. We will look at what grew and thrived and what didn't. And we will chat about why we think the garden grew the way it did. (Some things didn't really grow at all, and some things grew profusely.) Zita will also try to get some information beforehand from Native Seed Search about what they think can be done next time to yield better results, including information on bees and pollinating.

It will be pot luck again, plus we will bake banana bread in the outside sun oven. We will mix batter to start with and get that into the sun oven. Then, at noon we will go through the garden, see what we can pick to cook, talk about it, and have our potluck. Zita and I are contributing the ingredients for the two kinds of banana bread batters, so please bring a lunch dish to share and drinks and serve ware for yourself. If you want to come for the batter mixing, plan on coming around 11:00 a.m. If not, then come at 12:00 noon.

Zita's house is in central Tucson (I will give directions when you RSVP). All are invited to come even if you were not there for the planting last spring. I will bring the pictures of us making and planting it, so everyone can see what it looked like "before" compared to now, and Zita will show pictures of what it looked like at it's peak during the monsoon rains.

SYMPHONY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MUSIC INSTRUCTION

by Victoria M.

For over 50 years the Symphony Women's Association has been dedicated to "keeping music alive in the desert." SWA has made music education a defining mission of the organization. SWA offers a variety of free music instruction for children through high school who demonstrate a passion for music and who are not able to afford such lessons.

SWA's education programs take place in SWA's downtown Music Education Center (S. Stone Avenue and E. 15th Street – southeast corner). All classes are taught by professional musicians or music teachers and supported by trained SWA volunteers. SAW offers music scholarships students. (Scholarships are awarded based on federal guidelines for income level.) To find out if you qualify, please call Ruth Robsin at 546-9101. You will need to schedule an appointment to view the school and to fill out a short form.

The following classes are offered, although they may not all be available at this late date. Please note that the guitar class is open and SWA is looking for students ages 9 through high school to fill this class immediately.

FOLKLORIC MARIMBA – Ages 10 and up – Students receive instruction in rhythm, improvisation and technique. A rudimentary ability to read simple sheet music is required.

GUITAR – Ages 9 and up – Lessons, loaner instrument and required books will be provided to students accepted to this program.

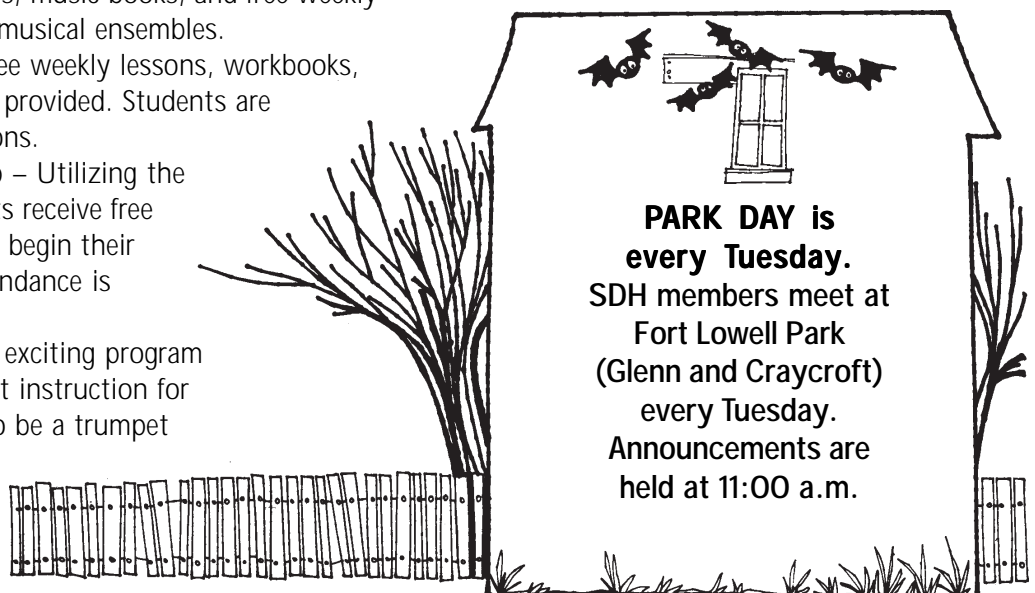
KINDER KLARI – Ages 5 to 9 – The John Denman Kinder Klari Program builds upon John Denman's belief in beginning clarinet instruction at an early age with especially designed instruments. Students receive loaner instruments, music books, and free weekly lessons to prepare them for larger musical ensembles.

PIANO LAB – Ages 9 and up – Free weekly lessons, workbooks, and, if needed, keyboard loans are provided. Students are grouped by skill level. Weekly lessons.

SUZUKI STRINGS – Ages 5 and up – Utilizing the traditional Suzuki method, students receive free weekly lessons in violin in order to begin their exploration of music. Parents' attendance is required.

TRUMPET – Ages 8 and up – This exciting program offers students free weekly trumpet instruction for those who demonstrate a desire to be a trumpet virtuoso. Students must have their front teeth!

For more information you may call me or call Ruth Robsin of SWA at 546-9101.





GEOGRAPHY GAMES DAY

by Donna J.

Join us for a geography party with lots of fun games, prizes, and good food to snack on. Geography Games Day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Woods Library Branch.

I will bring the following games: Map Tangle, Borderline (Africa, Middle East, and USA editions), Across the Americas: North, South and Central America card game, National Geographic GeoBee Challenge, 10 Days in Africa, Professor Noggin's Countries of the World card game, Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?, Geo Safari Game of the States, and Take Off. If you

have other geography games, please bring them. If you have duplicates of the games listed above, bring them too, to make sure we have enough games for everyone. If you don't have geography games, don't worry. Just join the fun! I will provide snacks. Please bring your own beverages.

For parents, this is a great opportunity to check out games you may be thinking of purchasing and a great time to share games that your family owns and likes. Information will also be available on the National Geographic Bee and future Geography Club meetings. RSVP's aren't required, but if you are planning on attending, please let me know. We will meet in the small meeting room at Woods, and I want to make sure we have enough room for everyone. The Woods Branch library is located at 3455 N. First Ave. For directions go to <http://tppl.org/locations/woods/>

UPCOMING GEOGRAPHY CLUB MEETINGS by Donna J.

We had a great time visiting the Netherlands in September – thanks, Sybelle, Ingo, and Bibi! Now we are planning additional trips. Do you have a country you would like SDH's Geography Club to visit? Or have you lived in another country and are you willing to guide a tour? Let me know, so we can put that country on our travel list. After our October games day (see above), we hope to visit at least one country a month or maybe two. So far our itinerary includes: November- India, December- Spain, January- Japan, February- Peru. Also on the list, with dates yet to be determined, are Thailand and Panama. Our visits include informal presentations and, of course, some great food from the country we are visiting. We also may be planning some restaurant visits. Let me know if you have any ideas.

For parents, this is a great opportunity to check out games you may be thinking of purchasing, and a great time to share games that your family owns and likes. Information will also be available on the National Geographic Bee and future Geography Club meetings. We will meet in the small meeting room at Woods Library. <http://tppl.org/locations/woods/>

GEOGRAPHY BEE by Donna J.

Does your child love learning about other cultures and countries, or is he a budding geographer who already knows his way around the world? Whether your child is a geography whiz, or just interested in learning more, check out the 2008 Pima County Home Educators National Geographic Bee. The bee is scheduled for Saturday, January 12 beginning at 10:00 a.m. (Please note this is a date change. I will be announcing the location soon.) The competition is open to homeschoolers in grades 4 to 8 who meet National Geographic's eligibility requirements and who are not over the age of 15 by the time of the national level competition. (See the last paragraph below for additional eligibility requirements.) Younger students may attend study sessions and participate in a practice round the day of the bee. For those too young to compete in 2008, this is a great way to prepare for future bees.

On-site registration will take place the day of the competition. There is no need to pre-register and no charge to enter. However, if you are planning to compete, please get on my mailing list for updates. This will also allow me to get an estimate of the number of participants and an idea of whether we are meeting minimum participation requirements. I am creating a guide that will be available at the Geography Games Day. I can also email it to you after October 10. More information about the bee, its eligibility requirements, and study resources may be found on the SDH web site's geography bee page: <http://www.hozho.homestead.com/GeographyBee.html> and on the National Geographic Bee web site: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/>

Three study sessions are planned to help students prepare. However, you don't have to participate in the study sessions to compete. Study sessions are scheduled from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on: Thursday, November 29, Thursday, December 6, and Thursday, December 13. I will announce the locations in the November newsletter and will post the information on the discussion board.

In addition to being in grades 4 to 8, to be eligible to compete, National Geographic also requires that students be following a school schedule and academic course load comparable to the majority of the student's grade-mates and age-mates. A student may not be enrolled in more than two academic courses at the high school and/or college level during each school year of the competition. Students enrolled in public or private schools may not compete as part of a homeschool association's bee and, conversely, students who are homeschooled must participate through a registered homeschool association. Students enrolled in public or private schools, including publicly funded virtual academies, aren't eligible to compete in the homeschool bee. To hold a competition, there is a minimum participation requirement of six students (in eligible grades), and students must be present to compete.

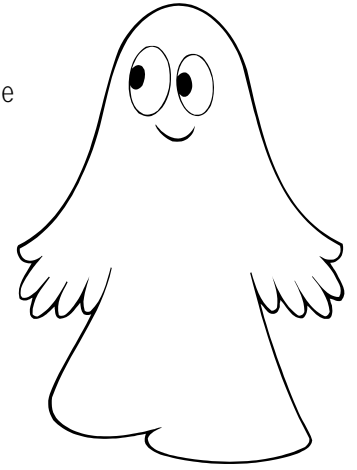


NORTHWEST PARK GROUP

by Joy M.

The Northwest Park group meets every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Some of us may arrive earlier or later. Be sure to bring plenty of water, sunscreen, snacks and a chair. Through the summer we met at the Jas. Krieh Park, however, the majority of us prefer to return to the Richardson Park for the next few months. Please join us at Richardson Park starting on Thursday, October 4. Directions: Richardson Park is located behind Richardson School at 6901 North Camino De La Tierra 85741. Cmo. De la Tierra is a half mile east of Thornydale Rd. Take Ina Rd. or Orange Grove Rd. to Cmo. De La Tierra. The school and park are located halfway between these streets on the westside.

To stay connected with the Northwest Park group, visit us at Yahoo! groups "NWTucsonhomeschoolers" or contact me for more information.



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

by Donna J.

Looking for a fun, but challenging way to learn more about history? National History Day (NHD) may be what you're searching for. NHD is a great way to learn more about history while improving research and writing skills and developing critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. To participate in NHD, students conduct extensive historical research related to an annual theme and then present their findings in one of five competition categories: exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites, or papers. "Conflict and Compromise in History" is the 2007-08 theme. In all categories, except historical papers, students may participate as an individual or as part of a group. Students may only participate as an individual in the historical paper category.

There are two age divisions eligible for local, state and national competition: Junior for students in grades 6to 8 and Senior for students in grades 9to 12. In Arizona, there is also a Youth Division for students in grade five. Students in grade five compete in just one category. They must create an exhibit board and a 500-word process paper. Fifth graders compete locally and at the state level, but don't go on to the national competition. Despite its name, NHD isn't just a one-day event. Competition begins at the local level with the Tucson regional competition, usually scheduled for February. Students who succeed at this level go on to the state competition. Winners at the state level may qualify to go on to the national competition.

If you are interested in NHD and would like more information, please contact me. If enough people are considering competing, I will schedule an information meeting. This could also be an opportunity for those interested in group or team competition to discuss that possibility.

To learn more, you may also go to the NHD website: <http://www.nhd.org/About.htm>

Arizona information is also found at: http://www.lib.az.us/archives/national_history_day_in_arizona.cfm



SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - October 18

Book Group is always the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and you are welcome to come whether you have read the book or not. We meet at Denny's (3655 E Speedway, two blocks west of Alvernon).

- October: *Middlesex* by Jeffery Eugenides*
- November: *Tomorrow's Children* by Riane Eisler
- December: *Liquid Jade: The Story of Tea East to West* by Beatrice Hohenegger
- January: *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* by Simon Wiesenthal

* Note: Middlesex has a long waiting list at the library, if you'd like to borrow my copy, let me know and I'll get it to you ASAP. Also, if you plan to get any of the other books from the library, you may want to look into reserving them ahead of time.

Moms' Coffee Night - October 31

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).

Dads' Coffee Night - October 3

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

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

<http://tucsonhomeschoolers.org>

Info: sdhtucson@yahoo.com

Newsletter: sdhnewsletter@yahoo.com



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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."