

Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • October 2008

INTERHOMESCHOOL SPORTS

by Lara B.

The date for the interhomeschool sports is tentatively set for the week of November 10. Also tentatively set is that we will be playing kickball, track & field, and soccer. The next practice will be at Tuesday park day, October 7, and as the interhomeschool day gets closer, we will add some extra practices.



FALL CLOTHING EXCHANGE

by Sharon A.

The fall clothing exchange will be at the park on Tuesday, October 14. Bring any clothing you would like to pass along. You do not need to bring something to take something. Take whatever you can use. Any unclaimed clothing items will be bagged up at approximately 1:00 p.m. and given away to a local charity.

GEOGRAPHY GAMES DAY

by Donna J.

SDH's Fourth Annual Geography Games Day is set for Monday, October 27 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Martha Cooper Branch Library's small meeting room. If you love board games, or geography — or just want to have fun on a Monday afternoon, plan to be there.

I will bring the following games: Borderline (Africa, Middle East, and USA editions), Across the Americas: North, South and Central America card game, 10 Days in Africa, Postcards from America, Takeoff and more, including two new ones. Bring your own geography games. If you don't have one, don't worry. Just join the fun! Snacks will be provided. Please bring your own beverages. RSVP's aren't required, but if you are planning on attending, please let me know, so I can bring enough snacks.

In addition to being an opportunity to learn more about geography, this games day is a great opportunity for parents to check out games you may be thinking of purchasing. I will also have information on the Pima County Home Educators National Geographic Bee, which is scheduled January 10.

The Martha Cooper Library is located at 1377 N. Catalina Ave. For a map and directions to the library, go to:

<http://www.library.pima.gov/locations/marthacooper/>

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Melinda H.

Parents and kids – Halloween is almost here! On Halloween park day, Tuesday, October 28 wear your costumes and get ready for some fun and games at this year's Halloween party. We will make crafts and start out the party with a Halloween costume parade! Please make sure your costume won't scare the younger children.

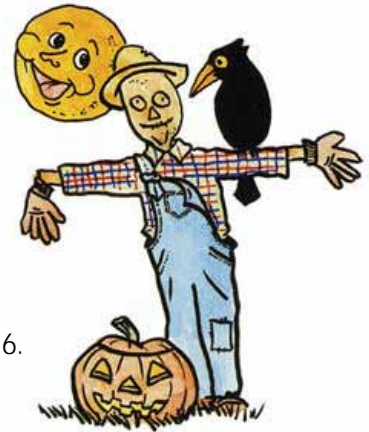
Anyone who would like to run carnival games and/or bring treats is encouraged to do so. Before you leave the park, please take a moment to help pick up any extra trash from the party.



SDH T-SHIRTS

by Lara B.

I will take shirt orders at park starting October 7 and will do that all four park days in October. I can send the information via email for the people who will not make it to park during October, and then you can send a check in the mail. Please just let me know if you need to do it that way. The deadline for all shirt orders and payments is Tuesday, Oct. 28.



SPEECH AND DEBATE CLUB

by Kate T.

- A Lincoln-Douglas debate tournament for SDH students is scheduled for Thursday, October 16.
- Junior Statesmen of America is holding a one day conference in Phoenix on Saturday, October 25 from noon to 5:00 p.m. at ASU to offer middle and high school students an opportunity to discuss some of the issues being raised in the upcoming general election. JSA is a student run, non-profit, non-partisan, political awareness organization. A group of students from SDH will be attending. If you are interested, you can learn more about JSA at <http://www.JSA.org>.

For more details about either of these events, please email me.

ROOTS & SHOOTS AND EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

Pumpkin Picking - Monday, October 20. We will head down to Forever Young Farm in Amado, which is family owned, and each get to pick out a pumpkin from the patch, which will range from about \$3.50 to \$5 each, depending on weight. Their theme this year is Bees, and they will have a retired botanist talking about the importance of bees. They also have lots of gourds, herbs, jars of local honey, and a few other things for sale, so bring some extra cash if you are interested. It's about 30 minutes south of Tucson once on I-19. We will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the parking lot of the Long Horn Grill Cafe in Amado, and then caravan at **10:00 a.m. sharp** the short drive to the farm itself. Please RSVP by Monday, October 13, so I know the approximate number of people going, and I will give you specific directions. (It's easy; exit #48.)

Tucson Green Festival - Saturday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and it's right downtown. www.tucsongreenfestival.org. We are all set to have our Roots & Shoots / Earth Scouts booth at the Green Festival, where our project for the kids will be to make blank bumper stickers into ones with an environmental message and/or picture on it to take with them. If anyone would like to help man the booth for any amount of time, that would be great! It's a great experience for the kiddos to help man the booth, as they get to see what the kids coming up make - and have general chit-chat with people. Let me know if you are interested or have any questions!

MOMS' ACTIVITY OUT by Lara B.



Hi Ladies. This is the alternative to the Moms' Coffee Night. This is what we have set up for the next couple months, but we need more suggestions from all of you moms to add more things to the list, so please keep the comments and recommendations coming! ***(Please note that the day for the October activity has changed!)***

October – Sunday, October 26 – Dessert at Something Sweet, 3:00 p.m. Coffee, teas, and single-serving desserts ranging from about \$4 to \$7 (on Speedway two blocks west of Craycroft)

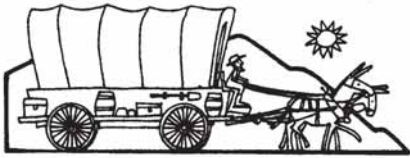
November – Saturday, November 22 – Breakfast and lunch at Tohono Chul Tea Room, 11:00 a.m. Here are menus and prices: <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/breakfast.html> and <http://www.tohonochulpark.org/lunch.html> (west of Oracle on Ina, north on Paseo Del Norte)

CAREER DAY by Donna J.

Save the date – Journeys in Home Education is planning a career day for homeschoolers on Saturday, November 8 at the Joel Valdez Main Library branch's lower level meeting room.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge to attend this event. More information about the career fair and a schedule will be in the November SDH newsletter and I will post it on our discussion group.

I am coordinating this event and am currently booking speakers, so if your child is interested in a particular career, or you know a good speaker, please let me know. Also, if you love your career and would be willing to talk to our kids about it, contact me so I can add you to the program. In addition to career information, we will have University of Arizona and Pima College admissions information.



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

by Donna J.

Are you studying Arizona history this year? Or does your child love history or writing? Do you have an aspiring actor, film maker or web designer in your house? If you answered yes to any of these questions, check out the National History Day (NHD) competition. It's a great way to learn more about history while improving

research and writing skills, as well as 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. The 2008-2009 theme is "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." In all categories, except historical papers, students may participate as an individual or as part of a group. There is no group competition in the paper category.

There are two age divisions eligible for local, state and national competition: Junior for students in grades 6 to 8 and Senior for students in grades 9 to 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 a regional competition, which will be held on Saturday, February 28 at Buena High School in Sierra Vista. Students must register by February 6 and those who are competing in the paper or web site categories also must submit their work by that date. In all other categories, bibliographies must be submitted by February 6. Students who succeed on the regional level go on to 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. I also have competition information, including books on this year's theme. To learn more, you may also go to the NHD website: <http://www.nhd.org/About.htm>

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

What in the World?!

It's the National Geographic Bee!

By Donna J. and Jackie O.

Calling all young geographers and world travelers, get ready for the 2009 Pima County Home Educators National Geographic Bee. The bee, which is sponsored by Journeys in Home Education this year, is scheduled for Saturday, January 10. Location and time to be determined so look for an announcement in November's newsletter, on the SDH calendar and the discuss list.

The competition is open to homeschoolers in grades four to eight who meet National Geographic's eligibility requirements* and who are not over the age of 15 by the time of the national level competition. Students don't need to pre-register to compete and there is no charge to participate.

As in past years, there will be 3 optional study sessions in November/December to help the kids prepare for the bee. We'll review questions from past bees, play some geography games, and have a good time learning about our wonderful world. These sessions are totally optional but are a good way to help get ready for the bee. Specific dates and times will be posted in the November newsletter.

More information about the bee, its eligibility requirements, and study resources may be found on the National Geographic Bee web site:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/>

In addition to grade requirements, National Geographic also requires that bee participants 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.



TWILIGHT SERIES BOOK DISCUSSION

by Kim B.

On Monday, January 19, 2009 I will be facilitating a book discussion for women and girls on the four books in the Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer. At this point we will meet at Something Sweet at 7:00 p.m. I am posting this now (4 months away) because we will be dealing with all four books and I want to give everyone who wants to participate time to read the books. They are all available at the library, but you will have to put them on reserve. The movie for the first book, Twilight, comes out in November so there may be a longer wait than normal. The books are long, but fast reads! The books are Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn.

These books have become a huge thing, especially with teen and pre-teen girls. During discussions with both teenaged girls and moms I have found that they have different takes on the books, so I thought it would be interesting for both the women and the girls to discuss the books together. I am sorry to have to exclude boys and men from the discussion, but I want the girls to be able to speak freely (these books are about a 17 year old girl who falls in love). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.



WINTER MUSIC RECITAL

by Victoria M.

Our Winter Music Recital will be on the first Thursday of December again this year, that's December 4. Armory Park Senior Center has offered their Ballroom to us again. We will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please pass this news along to any musical homeschool families you know. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to be added to the program. I will provide more details as the time approaches.

PARENTS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

by Laurie C.

Tuesday, October 14 will be the first meeting of the Support/Discussion Group for Parents of Gifted Children. It will be at Something Sweet, 5319 E. Speedway (NW corner of Speedway and Beverly east of Craycroft) at 7:00 p.m. .



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

The fall membership deadline is October 7. Memberships will be accepted after this date but will not be included in the fall roster.

Current members also please remember to renew your yearly membership by October 7.

There is a membership form on page 6 of this newsletter, or it is available at

www.tucsonhomeschoolers.org

at the newsletter yahoo group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SDH-newsletter/>
(in the files section).

The newcomer committee will also have copies of membership forms at park (look for them in yellow SDH t-shirts.)

NORTHWEST PARK DAY

by Lea C.

The Northwest Park group will continue to meet at James Kreigh Park on Thursday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Some of us will arrive earlier due to the hot weather. Be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, and a chair. Directions: 23 West Calle Concordia. From Ina and Oracle Rd., take Oracle north past Magee and Hardy. Calle Concordia is the next light. Turn left and the park is located on the right. Please contact Lea if you need more information.

**SDH PARK DAY is
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.**



SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parents' Book Discussion Group - October 21

The book discussion group meets at the regular Ft. Lowell 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.

- October: *A Complaint-Free World* by Will Bowen
- November: *The Life Before Her Eyes* by Laura Kasischke

- December: *Consumed: how markets corrupt children, infantilize adults, and swallow citizens whole* by Benjamin R. Barber
- January: *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- 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 - October 29

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).

See page 2 for an alternative Moms' Activity to take place on Sunday, October 26.

Dads' Coffee Night - October 1

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



View the SDH CALENDAR

<http://supercalendar.com/view.html?a=1539>

**Send articles for the newsletter to
SDHnewsletter@yahoo.com**

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."

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 on Tuesdays at Fort Lowell Park, from mid-August through mid-May. Group announcements happen between 11 & 11:30 am.

What are the benefits of joining?

Every month, the Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers newsletter, *Inside SDH*, will be sent to you either electronically or by mail.

- Get the SDH membership roster, plus regular updates.
- Participate in the SDH Discuss Yahoo Group, an email discussion group 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 per year **cash only** (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 form below plus the fee to a newcomer committee member in a yellow SDH tshirt or to Treasurer Sharon A.

More questions?

Send to:

sdhtucson@yahoo.com

New and renewing members: Submit this form and \$10 **cash only** (\$5 after January 1st) to either a Newcomer Committee member in a yellow SDH t-shirt or the SDH treasurer, Sharon A.

Parents' Name(s) _____

New

Renewal

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s) and Birthdate(s) (mm/yy)

If provided, this information will be included on the SDH roster. The roster is available *only* to SDH members and is *never* sold or used for any solicitation purposes.

e-mail address _____

If you do not provide an e-mail address, *Inside SDH* will be delivered by snail-mail.

New Members: If you provided an e-mail address, you will automatically become a member of the SDHNewsletter Yahoo Group (to receive your newsletters and roster electronically). You will also receive an invitation (via e-mail) to join the SDH-Discuss Yahoo Group (an unmoderated group for announcements and discussion about homeschooling). If you wish to join the SDH-Discuss Yahoo Group, please respond to the e-mail invitation before it's expiration in 30 days.

Every attempt is made to record payment and personal information correctly. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please see the treasurer.

Fall Membership deadline is October 7, 2008.

Memberships will be accepted after this date but will not be included in the fall roster.