



Inside SDH

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers • Tucson, AZ • October 2009

ROOTS & SHOOTS AND EARTH SCOUTS

by Lara B.

We're doing our next Roots & Shoots fundraiser on Saturday and Sunday October 3 and 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. – *that's this weekend*. It's a double good thing because it's Casa De Los Gatos' fundraising event; Cat-a-pa-loosa. (So our booth fee goes to their fundraising, and whatever we sell goes to ours.) So this is a call-out to everyone who is interested to make something that we can sell at our booth. It's whatever you'd like to contribute. So far we have homemade dog biscuits and animal treats, fun animal-themed jewelry, and a couple of donations from businesses that we're raffling. You are welcome to do anything that you'd like. It doesn't have to pertain to animals, but it can! Their examples are things like: ceramics, plants, candles, soaps, toys, jams, jellies, jewelry, vintage items, etc. So, whatever you want to make or contribute is fine, *except* baked goods (they are already doing that).

Casa De Los Gatos is Arizona's largest no-kill animal shelter. www.casadelosgatos.org This is their big grand opening and fundraising event. It goes all day Saturday and Sunday. If anyone would like to help man the booth either day, that would be great too, even if it's just for a little while.

If you have something for us to sell at the booth and would like it to be picked up, let me know and I'll make arrangements to get it. And if you just want to bring the family and come out and have fun at the event, that's great too. There will be live music playing both days.



SPORTS FOR 10 AND UNDER

by Sybelle and Ingo V.

Ingo and some of the other teens would like to help the younger crowd play some team sports at park. They will start out with baseball/softball and will move on to other sports if the kids like. They will do this on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 11:30-12:30. So the first time will be Tuesday, October 6 at McCormick Park.

If your child has any baseball equipment, like a glove or bat, bring it with you. Ingo has some to share also. You can email us if you have any questions or suggestions.

LEGO (AND BUILDING TOY) CLUB

by Kim B.

My son has requested that we add different building toys to our Lego Club meetings. Starting with the October meeting we will be a Lego and Building Toy Club. So, bring your Lego's, K'Nex, Zoob, Zome, and/or Erector sets (or any others I didn't mention)! If you want to bring a set for others to try out, that would be great. I'll be bringing a set or two as well. Kids should bring their own building sets. If you have young children, keep in mind that the floor of the room will be littered with small pieces.

The meeting place has changed. It will be at the Woods Library in the large meeting room on Friday, October 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. I couldn't get our regular place.

PARK DAY SCHEDULE

August – McCormick
September – Ft. Lowell
October – McCormick
November – Ft. Lowell
December – McCormick
January – Ft. Lowell
February – McCormick
March – Ft. Lowell
April – McCormick
May – Ft. Lowell
June – summer break
July – summer break



HALLOWEEN PARTY

by Laura N.

SDH's annual Halloween festival will be held on Tuesday, October 27 on our regular park day at McCormick Park. Kids and adults can wear their costumes and we will have a costume parade around the park. Anyone who would like to bring carnival games and/or treats is encouraged to do so. If anyone would like to bring some Halloween or Autumn crafts, that would also be fun. This event is based completely on what people bring, so if you want to bring games or crafts please do! Also, just a friendly reminder that there will be all ages participating so please try to wear costumes which are not too gory or scary for the little kids' sake. Lastly, please remember to take an extra moment before leaving the park to help pick up any trash left behind.

AGUA LINDA FARM PUMPKIN PATCH

by Frances K.

We will be visiting the Agua Linda Farm pumpkin patch on Wednesday, October 14, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be \$7 for each child with a small pumpkin and \$5 for each adult. Those are entry prices. I will need to collect the payments at our meeting point that morning so we do not delay our fun. Contact me for directions. Please do not use anything but google for directions for it will get you lost. It's pretty much a straight shot anyway. Go to www.agualindafarm.net to see all the attractions.



BIKE SAFETY CLASSES by Frances K.

We had a great turnout on September 29 for the bike safety video and free bike helmets. Two more bike safety activities will be held at park days on:

- Tuesday, October 6 at McCormick Park, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Bike safety jeopardy game.
- Tuesday, October 13 at McCormick Park, 10:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Bike rodeo, obstacle course. Please bring your bikes and helmets for the bike rodeo. Some bikes will be provided for kids without them.

These are for all ages but the child should be able to pay attention to the presentation. I will also need 3-4 adults to help with the things that the bike instructor needs help with.

JUNIOR STATE by Theo J.

Are you interested in government, politics and world affairs? If you are a middle school or high school age student, consider joining Junior State of America. Junior State is a national, nonpartisan, student-run organization. The Pima County Homeschoolers Chapter of JSA was founded last year and we have many great activities planned for 2009-2010. In addition to debates and political discussions, we'll work on a community service project, have a mock trial and a field trip to a court room, hold a mock election in November, host some great guest speakers, plus we'll meet with other JSA chapters at state and regional events.

Our chapter meets weekly on Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. After our meetings this fall, we'll have an optional debate class from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is totally optional. You don't have to take a debate class to join JSA or to participate. The course will use JSA materials and the Teaching Company's Argumentation lecture series on DVD. For meeting locations, please contact me. I will also post meeting information on SDH's discussion group.

For more information about JSA, check out our chapter website:

www.pimacountyhomeschooljsa.org or the national JSA organization site: www.jsa.org

PARK DAY is every Tuesday.
SDH members meet at the park every
Tuesday starting around 10:30 a.m.
Announcements are held at 11:00 a.m.
We will meet at McCormick Park
(2950 N. Columbus Blvd.)
for the month of October.



MOVIE MAKING CLASS

Lights!, Camera!, Action!

by Donna J.

Lara and I will be offering a movie making class starting in October. We have some great techniques and resources to share from an Arizona K-12 Center technology camp we attended this summer. During our class we'll walk you through the entire process of creating a short movie and you'll have an opportunity to shoot on location at Old Tucson. Students may produce individual movies or they may work together in groups – either with their family or on a student team.

This will be a six-week class held on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. with the exception of the field trip scheduled on October 23, which will start at 10:00 a.m. The course will begin on Friday, October 9, and end with a movie premiere party on Friday, November 13.

We'll start with an introduction to movie making and resource sharing class on the 9th. Then brainstorm and do storyboards at our second class. On October 23 we'll go to Old Tucson and start with their "Behind the Scenes" tour, which will show the kids what it's like on a real, working movie set. Following the tour, our students will have the opportunity to shoot their own footage, which they may use for their movies. We went to Old Tucson during this summer's tech camp and the video tape from this outing was used by teachers in an amazing variety of ways, which we'll show you. Students may also independently video tape elsewhere for their movies.

On October 30 and November 6 we will have workshops to create our movies, by editing our footage, and adding special effects, music, voice-overs, graphics, etc. Then on November 13 we will have a movie premiere party, so we can show off our creations. On October 9 and October 16 we will meet at the Joel Valdez Main Library's lower level meeting room. We are working to get a computer classroom for our editing workshops and that location will be announced soon.

To cover our expenses, the cost for this class will be \$36. If you enroll more than one child in the class, the cost will be only \$18 for your second child. The fee includes the field trip to Old Tucson and lunch at Old Tucson, the cost of handouts, and the premiere party. The cost is based on having a minimum of ten students. If the cost is a hardship for anyone, please let us know and we'll try and see if we can work something out. If your child wants to attend this class, please contact us ASAP. Also let us know if you have a video camera and what type of operating system your computer has – Windows, Linux, Mac OS? If you have any questions, please email or call us.

MOCK ELECTION AT PARK DAYS

by Donna and Theo J.

Junior State will be holding two Mock Election activities at park days on October 27 and November 3. We're hoping other members of SDH *of all ages* will want to participate too. In October, our chapter members will be forming political parties for their mock election and they will be developing party platforms that reflect their personal views on many issues.

On October 27 they will come to park day and invite SDH members to listen as they present their party platforms and campaign for their parties. Some of these parties will be real life ones, but chapter members also have the option of creating their own parties. They will invite everyone at park to listen to their speeches in preparation for a mock election at park on November 3 – the same day as the City of Tucson General Election. Students will take questions from the audience after their presentations, just like real political campaigners. Also, three of our older students (possibly more) want to give a mini-workshop on the election process for younger elementary school age students. This workshop will explain how elections work and we hope it will be a good educational experience for the younger kids.

Then on November 3 we will hold a mock election. Anyone at park may vote in the election – younger kids to adults. You will be asked to vote for one of the party platforms that was presented on October 27.

We will try to limit all these activities to one specific area of park, so if you don't want to participate, we won't be in your way. Although we're hoping this will be a good educational opportunity for all. Our chapter members are from all ends of the political spectrum, left to right, and everything in between. JSA is a nonpartisan organization. So this will be a nonpartisan event, in the sense that many diverse views will likely be represented. We can't get more specific on the party platforms right now because our students are just now beginning the process of selecting, or creating, parties and developing their platforms.

If you are a middle school or high school student, we invite you to join JSA and join us in creating this mock election activity. We meet weekly on Friday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Theo or Donna.





SDH T-SHIRTS by Lara B.

I will take our annual tee-shirt orders during the first three weeks of October. I will send the link out on the YahooGroups discuss-list soon, where you will be able to pick what you want from many choices. You then can let me know what you want, and either send a check in the mail, or give it to me at park day. The deadline for all shirt orders and payments is Friday, October 23. The back of all the SDH shirts is the same – the big lizard SDH logo. For each item, you will have a choice for what you would like on the front; one of two different homeschooling quotes or the Roots & Shoots front. If you are not on the discuss list and would like me to email you the information directly let me know!

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. NHD is an academic program in a competitive format. Students excel not by winning, but by mastering knowledge about an historic event. 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. Students also learn how to successfully convey their knowledge to others.

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 2009-2010 theme is *"Innovation in History: Impact and Change."* 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 all categories, except historical papers, students may participate as an individual or as part of a group. There's no group competition in the paper category. Note, there is no longer a fifth grade competition in Arizona.

Students show their completed work and are interviewed by judges at regional competitions. Each student must register for a regional competition by February 6. The Southern Arizona competition is scheduled February 20, 2010 at Buena High School in Sierra Vista. If you can't compete on this date, there are other regional competitions state-wide with different competition dates in February. You may register for any of these competitions – you don't have to live in Phoenix for the Phoenix metropolitan competition or live in northern Arizona to register for that area's event. I've been told that some students and teachers choose what competition they will compete in by trying to ascertain which site might have the least registrants, something that might give them a competitive edge. Or some choose by which regional competition date will give their students the longest amount of time to prepare their project.

Another thing to keep in mind is that some competition categories require that student work be completed and submitted *prior* to the regional event, so that judges might review projects before they interview the student. More specific information on deadlines and submission requirements may be found on the Arizona NHD site: www.arizonahistoricalociety.org/nhd/default.asp

There's an Arizona "Theme Supplement" booklet to help students select topics that match this year's theme. The supplement includes ideas to guide project development, as well as guidance on research facilities in Arizona. There's a link to download the supplement at the Arizona NHD web site. Information on future webinars will also be posted on this web page.

Keep in mind, topics don't have to be on Arizona or United States history. You may create a world history project. I recently attended a NHD workshop, sponsored by the University of Arizona's Center for Latin American Studies and its Center for Middle Eastern Studies, where a lot of research resources that could generate some great project topics were shared. So if anyone is interested in these two regions, I have plenty of research information and some great potential sources of information that I would be happy to share. I also attended the general NHD workshop, sponsored by the Arizona Historical Society, and would be happy to share some of the tips and suggestions that were presented at this workshop. Theo participated in the competition as a sixth grader and won some great cash prizes, so contact us if you would like more information or would like our impressions of the competition. If enough SDH members are interested, I would be willing to hold a workshop to share resources and show a dvd that will allow you to see previous competitions. We might also be able to form a study group to support each other through the competition process. There is also a homeschool coordinator on the Arizona NHD board who will help homeschoolers as needed. Please contact me if you have questions, or want more information. More information may also be found on the national NHD web site:

<http://www.nationalhistoryday.org/Contest.htm> Or the state web site above.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE FOR PIMA COUNTY HOME EDUCATORS

By Jackie O.

The National Geographic Bee for Pima County Home Educators will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Nanini Library community room. Registration begins at noon and the bee starts promptly at 12:30 p.m. Students do not need to pre-register to compete and there is no charge to participate.

The competition is open to homeschoolers in grades four to eight who meet National Geographic's eligibility requirements as follows (edited from National Geographic's website):

Registration is open to students in grades 4 through 8 who will not be over the age of 15 by the time of the national competition at the end of May 2010.

A student may not be enrolled in more than three academic courses at the high school and/or college level during each school year of the competition.

Students enrolled in public or private schools, including publicly-funded virtual academies and charter schools, are not eligible to compete in the homeschool bee.

Also, to hold a competition, there is a minimum participation requirement of six students and students must be present to compete.

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/>

Please email me with any questions.



GEOGRAPHY BEE STUDY SESSIONS

by Jackie O.

It's not too late to start attending the geography study sessions even if you haven't been able to come before. Each session is somewhat self-contained. There are 2 left:

- Monday, October 5, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Nanini Library
- Last session (which is a mock bee) is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 23; location to be announced

Since the main focus is preparation for the county-wide homeschool National Geographic Bee on November 14, the sessions are geared towards 4th - 8th grades. Third graders are welcome too as they will be eligible for the bee next year. Email me with any questions.



SDH MONTHLY PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dads' Coffee Night - October 7

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

Moms' Coffee Night - October 28

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



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

Sonoran Desert Homeschoolers

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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."