



Learning at Home

The Museum of Visual Materials Tour

Here are some scenes from our tour of this unique museum, newly opened in one of the oldest buildings in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (1887).

Our tour guides talked a lot about the efficient environmental standards of the building, which runs on Geo-Thermal heating and cooling, solar panel energy, fast growing renewable resources such as cork and bamboo floors, and wheat cupboards.

All of their plumbing and electric fixtures are highly efficient, and skylights have been added to the building to use more natural light. We also learned about how this private collection

The member area of our website is getting a new look which includes a birthday list! And coming soon, our member directory!

Thanks Melissa for all of your hard work!

*Photos Available
on SDHSA
Secure Site Only*

Announcements:
In the December Issue of Sioux Falls Moms our group will be featured as a support group!

came to be. The museum contains sewing machines for the community to use, a state-of-the-art Commercial kitchen, a sound proof listening room so that visitors can enjoy one of thousands of records or 8-tracks they have on hand. The collection contains over 4,500 books on all types of subjects. There are also many trinkets and toys that are particularly enjoyable for the museum's younger visitors.

There are tons of hands on experiences where you will learn by your sense of touch, smell, hearing, taste and of course sight.

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December 2007

Box Tops Update

We collected \$15.50 worth of Box Tops!—The group will get a check with our next Box Top Submission (at which time the group will decide what to do with the money)

The Top Three Families

© Penny & Family

© Becky & Family

© Crystal & Family

Thanks to everyone who helped us earn some money!

Please don't forget to save Box Tops. Each one is worth 10 cents. Please bring them in a bag marked with your last name to any SDHSA event and give to a leader.

There are 2 additional ways to earn points for our group. One is you can order books through the Box Top Book Club and you can place orders through the Box Top site (participating merchants will donate a percentage to our group).

Welcome:

Available on SDHSA Secure Site Only

And thanks to those who renewed!

Craft and Play at the YMCA

*Photos Available
on SDHSA
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The group's first get-together at the YMCA (230 S. Minnesota Ave) was a success! There was tons of activities to keep the kids busy. Kids could make a leaf print card—envelopes were available also if they wanted to mail their creation. Kids enjoyed the open space to play run around and play with the variety of toys there. From baby to big kid—everyone seemed to have a great time!

ity -- SDHSA is funding the crafts.

The Play Space: It is designed for children 6 months to 13 years. There are infant toys, toddler cars, huge foam blocks, and a large slide (like the one at McDonalds on 26th street). There is also a kid volleyball net, soccer equipment, basketball hoop and balls, and much more. Toys will be rotated so there will be a variety of toys out.

Our next Craft and Play at the YMCA will be December 4th from 12:45-2:45pm. Please note this is a time change.

Rules: All kids need to wear socks. No food or drinks allowed (water is okay). For insurance reasons, only YMCA employees can go into toy closet, so Tamara will get out toys and put them away. She will show up early and get out a lot of toys and then stay late to put them away.

Cost: \$2 per child 6 months and older/\$6 family maximum. This fee is good for SDHSA members, for this timeframe only. The fee is collected by a SDHSA member and goes to the Y for the use of the facil-

We hope to see you at our next Craft and Play at the YMCA!

Craft Corner

Crystal Snowflake

Supplies :

Borax powder *

Pipe cleaners

Wide mouth jar

Spoon

Pencil

Boiling water(have an adult help with this)

String (optional)

Scissors

Food coloring (optional)

Directions :

*Fill the jar 3/4 full with boiling water.

*Stir in Borax powder into the hot water a spoonful at a time until no more will dissolve. (About 3 Tablespoonfuls to each cup of hot water.)

*Add a few drops of food coloring if you want colored snowflakes or icicles.

*Try bending the pipe cleaners into different shapes such as trees, stars, or snowflakes before putting them in the Borax solution.

*Place a bent pipe cleaner shape in the jar to make a snowflake.

*Use a piece of string to tie the pipe cleaners to a pencil placed across the top of the jar. This should be placed to keep it away from touching the sides.

Wait overnight...


In the morning, the Borax will have formed crystals on the pipe cleaner.

You can make a giant snowflake by using

three white pipe cleaners and string. Twist the 3 pipe cleaners together in the center to make a 6-sided, spiky figure. Tie the string between the branches. Place a straight pipe cleaner in the jar to make an icicle. Hang your indoor snowflakes or icicles on your Christmas tree or in a window.

* Called 20 Mule Team Borax Laundry Booster - the product called Boraxo will NOT work.

Fun Facts:

 No two snowflakes are ever exactly alike, but they do fall into certain forms.

 Wilson Bently photographed a snowflake for the first time on January 15, 1885.

Craft submitted by: Tamara

Beaver Creek Plantation

Kid Get to Know



*Photo Available
on SDHSA
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With a temperature of 60 degrees the weather was pretty much perfect (or much better than it could have been in mid-November). Before and after the tour, the kids had fun playing on their piles of dirt and gravel. In between, the plantation owner used his truck to pull us, in a wagon, through the plantation. He frequently stopped to tell us the names of the types of trees we were seeing, giving us facts about many of them, such as types of weather, elevations, etc. that are desirable or essential to growing them. After the wagon ride, we were able to visit a couple of his staff members who were making wreaths.

Some interesting facts: There are currently around 130,000 trees and shrubs growing there. The trees grown for the holiday season include Scotch Pine, White Pine, Fraser Fir, and Meyer Spruce. The public can come to the plantation to pick and cut trees each weekend from mid-November through Christmas.

Their website is <http://www.beavercreekplantation.com/>

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December Birthdays

*Available
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To submit art/poem or any accomplishment you'd like to share please send to becky@sdhsa.org

Member Get to Know

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2008 Home School Spelling Bee

The 2008 Home School Spelling Bee sponsored by the Greater Sioux Falls Home School Association is slated for Monday, January 7 at St. Mary parish hall located at 2109 S. 5th Ave. in Sioux Falls. The bee which is open to 3rd - 8th graders consists of both a written and oral competition. Competition will be divided into 3 divisions: 3rd - 4th grades, 5th - 6th grades and 7th - 8th grades. The winners of the oral spell down in both the 5th - 6th grade and 7th - 8th grade divisions will advance to the city-wide bee sponsored by the Argus Leader. Competition for the 3rd-4th graders will begin at 1:30 and for 5th grade and up it will start at 2:30.

To register for the Spelling Bee, email Julie

McLaughlin at mclaughlin28@sio.midco.net with your child's name, grade and phone number. There will be a \$5 registration fee for all 5th - 8th graders and this fee can be paid on the day of the bee. 3rd and 4th graders will not be charged a registration fee as they will not have the opportunity to participate in the city-wide bee. The registration fee is new this year as each school and home school association is now charged a \$99 registration fee to have the opportunity to send one of their students to the Nat'l Bee should they win the state competition.

In the past, newspapers have been the sponsors of the National Spelling Bee. However, the newspapers are struggling financially as

their circulation decreases and they are no longer able to be the sole supporters of the National Bee. The newspapers will continue to cover the cost of awards and other expenses related to the city and state bees and the \$99 registration fee paid by schools and home school associations will pay for the cost of sending students to the Nat'l Bee and other expenses related to the National Bee.

The registration deadline for the Jan. 7th bee is December 22nd. If you have any questions, contact Julie McLaughlin at: mclaughlin28@sio.midco.net.

Opportunities Available to Homeschoolers!

- Educator discount cards are available for homeschoolers through Barnes & Noble Booksellers of Sioux Falls. To receive your card, bring your stamped exemption form to their sales desk. The card entitles you to 20% off education related products. The store also has a couple of events each year that offer the discount on a greater range of products.
- The Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science gives free admission to [Cinnedome](#) movies to all homeschooling parents. Just present your exemption certificate (along with photo ID) at the box office to receive a free ticket. This offer does not apply to students or family members.

Important



If you are interested in taking an active role in the SDHSA group please let a leader know.

Submissions need to be in by December 22nd for the next newsletter. Thanks.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the group please let a group leader know (the names are directly to the left).

To submit your favorite recipe please email it to becky@sdhsa.org

Contacts

Voicemail: 605-610-4461

All messages will be returned by an SDHSA Leader

Web Site:

<http://www.sdhsa.org>

Address:

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melissa@sdhsa.org

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christina@sdhsa.org

Crafts: Tamara

tamara@sdhsa.org

Gym: Angie

angie@sdhsa.org

December 2007

Some of the events have an additional fee—please see the online calendar for all of the information.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 12:45-2:45p Craft and Play at the YMCA	5	6	7 1:00p Tour of the Washington Pavilion w/ cinedome Movie	8
9	10	11 1:00-3:00p Gym Time	12	13 6:30-8:00p Thursday Night Dine, Plan & Chat	14 1:30-3:00p Swimming	15
16	17	18 1:00-3:00p Open Play at Backyard Adventures Note: Please feel free to bring Holiday Treats	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
