



Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!

We are looking forward to a successful year promoting academic excellence, open communication, respect, and community involvement. The Sonoran Sky Parent Teacher Organization (SSKYPTO) is here to support the teachers, school staff, and the family community. We do this by providing financial assistance for critical school programming, as well as providing an equally important component of support: volunteerism. The PTO organizes hundreds of volunteers who collectively contribute several hundred hours weekly toward the betterment of our school.

The PTO organizes a variety of community events throughout the year, including Trunk-or-Treat Movie Night, STEM Night, Talent Show, Spring Fling Carnival, and a wonderful program called Sonoran Sky Opportunities to Serve (SSOS), whereby we have drives and raise funds to support sister schools with underprivileged families in our district.

The PTO has three main fundraising drives: Team Thunderbird Back-to-School Campaign, Read-a-thon (new this year!), and Cantina Night Social & Auction (adults only). In addition, we have a robust Community Business Partner program. There are always ways to support and give back to our school through Dine-Around Fundraisers, Box Top collection, and shopping at Fry's, Mighty Nest and Amazon, just to name a few! Money raised by the PTO is currently used to provide back-to-school start-up materials to all teachers, support grade level Artist-in-Residence (AIRs), science instruction with a full-time Master Gardener, fund important additional professional development for our teachers, and so much more.

When my oldest started at Sonoran Sky eight years ago (Nora is currently in 8th grade at DSMS), I remember sitting in the BooHoo Breakfast, and the PTO President at the time spoke about all of the opportunities for involvement. While volunteering in the classrooms and directly supporting the teachers is extremely important, please keep in mind that our PTO does so much for our school and teachers outside of the classroom. Back at that August 2009, BooHoo, I remember the PTO President saying, "**Many Hands Make Light Work.**"

I'm asking you to do your part in your kids' classrooms AND be part of the PTO. Volunteers are needed ALL THE TIME... It seems like I'm always getting several simultaneous reminders from SignUpGenius! It doesn't have to be a major commitment... most things are an hour here, an hour there. Many things can be done from home for working parents or those with little ones at home.

Please attend PTO meetings next year! There are no membership fees to join the Sonoran Sky PTO. All parents and guardians are automatically members, and all are encouraged to attend our monthly PTO meetings held on the first Tuesday of every month at 8 am in the school library. Consider signing up your kiddo for a Tuesday morning enrichment class to make it easier! Also

keep in mind that Tuesday is a Choir day for grades 4–6. Finally, one of our 6th grade teachers, Mrs. Amy Smith-Day, opens her classroom for PTO Meeting Kid-Care at 8. It's just 25 minutes and then they go to the playground. Have a preschooler or younger? We've all had little ones and don't mind the extra company (and cute noises) during the meeting.

Volunteer for the PTO! I encourage all Sonoran Sky families to find a way to get involved this year. Whether helping in your child's classroom, making copies in the workroom, or soliciting items for our Silent Auction, it is all equally important, and every little bit helps to make your child's school year a positive one. **Please complete the 2017 Volunteer Interest Form online at sskypto.com/volunteer-17** and tell us how you would like to be involved. There are many different opportunities available to fit a wide variety of time, talents and interests. The PTO is warm and family friendly. Please join our school family! *Take some time to review all the information in this back to school folder.* For additional information, please refer to our PTO website at sskypto.com. If you have any other ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact me directly at president@sskypto.com.

PTO Succession: I will be serving a two-year term as President. Sometime toward the middle of next year, we will identify a President Elect who will take over for the school year 2019–20. This President Elect will spend the 2018–2019 school year shadowing me. In addition, other members of the Executive Board will move on, so we will need others to step up in roles such as Marketing, Treasurer, and Fundraising. You might be reading this thinking, "No way, not a chance!" But I urge you to not rule it out, but to consider it! I've been told, time and time again, that what makes Sonoran Sky stand out is our incredibly supportive and involved community. Come be a part of what makes this school unique! Thank you, and have a great year!

Alison Feinberg
Sonoran Sky PTO President
president@sskypto.com



SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, August 9

First Day of Classes, 8:45am
Kinder Boo-Hoo Breakfast, 9:15am
Kindergarten Half Day, 1pm
PTO Enrichment Registration begins

5:45pm: Resource Classes
6pm: Honors (2nd presentation)
6:10pm: 5th Grade
6:50pm: 4th Grade

Thursday, August 10

Kindergarten Half Day, 1pm

Wednesday, August 16

Volunteer Orientation, 9am
Copy Machine Training 10am

Monday, August 14

Parent Orientation Night:
5:30pm: 1st Grade
5:45pm: Resource Classes
6:10pm 2nd Grade
6:50pm: 3rd Grade

Thursday, August 17

Coffee with Mr. D, 9am

Tuesday, August 15

Parent Orientation Night:
5pm: Honors (1st presentation)
5:30pm: 6th Grade (PILOTS
Presentation: 6:10pm)

August 21-25

Health Screenings, volunteers needed

Wednesday, August 23

Room Parent Meeting 9am

Friday, August 25

SSKY Ambassadors Welcome
Back Dance 6pm-8pm

PTO MEETINGS

8am, First Tuesday of Every Month

School Library - Childcare Provided!

September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5,

January 9, February 6, March 6,

April 3, May 1



PASSIVE FUNDRAISING

LOW-EFFORT, HIGH-RETURN!

<http://www.sskypto.com/passive>

BOXTOPS

Send in those BoxTops! SSKY earns an average of \$2,000 each year from BoxTop collections. Our sixth-grade PILOTS will do the cutting, sorting, and managing, including awarding monthly prizes to the classrooms with the highest collection!

AMAZON: Fundraising while you shop! – <http://bit.ly/amazonssky>

Shop with our Amazon Affiliates link and SSKY will earn a minimum commission of 4% on every purchase (way better than Amazon Smile!). Bookmark our link to your home screen and desktop, or click the Amazon button on [sskypto.com](http://www.sskypto.com) every time you shop.

FRY'S GROCERY – <https://www.frysfood.com>

Link your Fry's card to SSKY and our PTO receives a percentage of every purchase. The more you shop, the more we earn! Must relink every school year.

ARTSONIA.com

Our art teacher, Mrs. Arola-Johnson, shares every student's artwork on Artsonia. When you use Artsonia to make and buy creative goodies like coffee mugs & t-shirts, 20% of your purchase is donated back to Sonoran Sky's art program.

TUFT & NEEDLE – <http://www.tuftandneedle.com/givesback>

In the market for a new mattress? The SSKY PTO receives 25% from your Tuft & Needle mattress purchase if you shop using this link.

MIGHTYNEST.com

MightyNest makes it easier to create a healthy home with products that are thoroughly researched to be free of concerning chemicals and hand-picked for quality and design. Shop with MightyNest and Sonoran Sky can receive 15% of your purchases!

SCHOLASTIC READERS CLUB – <http://clubs2.scholastic.com/>

Buy books online with the Scholastic Readers Club and earn free books for your classroom!

SSKY ENRICHMENT CLASS

Take a PTO Enrichment Class and have fun while giving back! Class fees go directly to our awesome teachers for their time and also to support school programs for all students. Learn more and enroll at <http://sskypto.com/enrichment>.

Sonoran Sky Elementary Volunteer Sign-up Form 2017-2018

Volunteer's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Fill out online at sskrypto.com/volunteer-17 or mark any areas in which you are interested and return to school. Please email Nikki Coburn at Volunteer@sskrypto.com with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities

<p><u>School-Wide Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Copy Cats <input type="radio"/> Lost and Found <input type="radio"/> Kindergarten Enrichment Escorts <input type="radio"/> Kindergarten Drop off Helper <input type="radio"/> Library Helpers <input type="radio"/> Picture Day Helpers <input type="radio"/> School Tours <input type="radio"/> Health Screenings <input type="radio"/> Secret Garden <input type="radio"/> Wonderland <input type="radio"/> Dad's Club <input type="radio"/> Morning Greeter <p><u>Fundraising/Social Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Read-a-Thon <input type="radio"/> Spring Fling/Silent Auction <input type="radio"/> Trunk or Treat/Movie Night <input type="radio"/> STEM night <input type="radio"/> Used Book Sale 	<p><u>PTO Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Enrichment <input type="radio"/> Marketing <input type="radio"/> Philanthropic Committee <input type="radio"/> Book Fair <input type="radio"/> Art Walk <input type="radio"/> Hospitality <input type="radio"/> Ambassador <input type="radio"/> SSOS-outreach <input type="radio"/> Yearbook Photographers <input type="radio"/> Wonderland <p><u>Classroom Help</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Special area Room Parent- See teacher if interested in General Class <input type="radio"/> Junior Achievement-See teacher if interested <p>See individual teachers for other classroom opportunities</p>
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On-Deck Volunteer- If you are not sure right now how you can help, but would like to be involved in the future, add your name to the "On-Deck" Volunteer list. If we find we're short-handed for an activity or event, we'll go to our On-Deck list and check with you to see if you can help with an activity or event.

- I'm flexible: Call me anytime to work at school
- I'm flexible: Call me anytime to work at home
- I am only available during the following times/days _____

TEAM THUNDERBIRD

At Sonoran Sky, we are ALL Team Thunderbird

SUPPORT OUR TEAM

PARTICIPATE -- CONTRIBUTE -- MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Everyone in our Sonoran Sky Community is a member of Team Thunderbird. Show your support for our team by contributing to our PTO to ensure that the wide variety of enriching educational experiences in our school that are NOT funded by the state or the district can continue. Our PTO pays for our Wonderland outdoor classroom and full-time Master Gardener, Artist-in-Residence programs, professional support and ongoing education for our teachers and staff, and even supplements everyday expenses like teacher supplies.

Donate online at sskyppto.com/fundraiser-17

Minimum suggested support is \$50 per student

Principal's Circle	\$1,000	Your family will be invited to participate in a winter Principal's Circle luncheon with Mr. Dawson. Your family name will be added to a permanent memorial art installation in the Wonderland outdoor classroom. You will also receive an SSKY swag bag, key chain, and car decal.
Wonderland Club	\$500-\$999	Your family name will be added to a permanent memorial art installation in the Wonderland outdoor classroom (plus swag bag, key chain and car decal).
Swag Club	\$250-\$499	Receive an SSKY nylon swag bag (plus key chain and car decal).
Key Club	\$100-\$249	Receive an SSKY key chain (plus car decal).
Team Thunderbird	\$1-\$99	Receive a stylish "Team Thunderbird" car decal to show your support.

Alternately, you may use this form and bring your donation to the front office of Sonoran Sky

My family will give \$ _____ to Team Thunderbird for the 2017-18 school year.

Name: _____

Student(s): _____

Teacher(s): _____

Phone and/or email: _____

I want to contribute anonymously

Sonoran Sky PTO is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.
Your gift may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor for additional information. Tax ID: 86-0768944
Please keep a copy of this document for your tax records.

2017 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

*Ready to lend a hand, in the classroom, in the garden,
on field trips, at school events?*

*Please join us at the 2017 Volunteer Orientation
for the ins-and-outs of volunteering at Sonoran Sky Elementary.
See you there!*

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16th, 9AM
THUNDERBIRD HALL CAFETERIA**

Good news - our school has a new copy machine!
Volunteers who may use the copier must attend training at 10AM.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

Important To-Dos:

- Complete & return SSKY Volunteer application
- Volunteer this year at sskpyto.com/volunteer-17
- Contribute to Classroom Support at sskpyto.com
- Donate to Team Thunderbird at sskpyto.com/fundraiser-17
- Register for Enrichment Classes at sskpyto.com/enrichment
- Fund Cafeteria Accounts at ezschoolpay.com

Important To-Joins:

- Link Up with Passive Fundraising at sskpyto.com/passive
- Add news@sskpyto.com to your email contacts
- Like us at Facebook.com/sskpyto
- Follow us on Twitter: [@SonoranSky](https://twitter.com/SonoranSky) & [@sskpyto](https://twitter.com/sskpyto)
- Follow us on Instagram: [@sonoranskyaz](https://www.instagram.com/sonoranskyaz) & [@sskpyto](https://www.instagram.com/sskpyto)

Important To-Funs:

- Earlybird Yearbook Sale
- School Directory
- SSKY T-shirts
- Birthday Celebrations