

Class prepares volunteers to mentor children in Sisters

Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth (COPY), a program of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, is offering a class to prepare volunteers to become mentors for children with an incarcerated parent.

After initial training and comprehensive background checks, volunteers are matched with children in Sisters that share similar interests and activities and commit to spending a few hours a week together for a minimum of one year. This time is often spent going to community events, working on homework, attending art programs, participating in

sports, or simply hanging out and talking.

On Saturday, January 18, COPY will offer an orientation/training class. This six-hour class covers program policies, how to establish a mentor relationship, the impact incarceration has on families, and communication skills. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required.

For more information call 541-388-6651 or email COPY@deschutes.org Additional program information is available at the Sheriff's Office website at www.sheriff.deschutes.org/copy.

Sheriff's Academy registration ends January 10

Registration will soon close for the 2020 Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Academy, to be held in the Bend office.

The six-week course is designed to give attendees an in-depth look at the different divisions of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and educate the community about what DCSO is responsible for.

In addition to the classroom instruction, participants can go out on patrol ride-along and tour the Deschutes County Jail. There are also two optional Saturday sessions during the academy.

The academy is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 22, and will run Monday and Wednesday evenings through February, excluding President's Day. There is no cost to attend this

academy.

The deadline for receiving applications is January 10. Interested persons can pick up an application at the main Sheriff's Office in Bend at 63333 West Highway 20, Bend, OR 97703. Additional information and an online application can also be found at www.deschutes.org/sheriff. (Click on "Community" then "Community Programs" and then select "Public Safety Academy").

LETTERS

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To the Editor:

Facts about the American Legion:

The American Legion was instrumental in: Drafting the original legislation that became the GI Bill.

Creating what is today's Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mentoring millions of young people through its many youth programs.

Its unwavering support of and promoting respect for the American flag.

Fighting for veterans' rights on Capitol Hill and in statehouses.

Assisting countless veterans with getting their earned VA benefits.

The American Legion activities in November 2019:

Donations to the American Legion go to support our programs, statewide, locally and nationally. During the last lack of a budget that resulted in the Coast Guard not being paid, the American Legion donated over one million dollars to Coast Guard families to help them during that time.

The four pillars of the American Legion: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Defense and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation gave:

- \$1,357,541 in financial contributions made to VA hospitals by American Legion posts in the 2018-2019 membership year, with only 69 percent reporting.

- 1,016 VA hearing presentations prepared on behalf of veterans by national American Legion benefits claims experts in November.

- 6,560 Veterans Day events coordinated by American Legion posts in 2018, with just 69 percent of posts submitting reports.

- 70,000 pints of blood donated through the American Legion's annual holiday blood drive last year.

- 25 minor children were assisted throughout the United States in November by the American Legion's Temporary Financial

Assistance Program, which provides grants for needy military and veteran families to pay for shelter, utilities, food or clothing.

- \$26,850 in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants distributed in November to assist organizations and programs that help children facing difficulties beyond their control.

- 505 appeals granted for American Legion-represented veterans disputing VA benefit decisions in November.

- \$13,681 in youth scholarships awarded in November by the American Legion.

Gene Hellickson

Past State of Oregon American Legion Commander

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

The legislature will convene on February 3 for just over a month to take care of the people's business. But increased political partisanship has worn down our trust in each other and in state government, and the threat of another state senate walk-out in 2020 casts doubt on what can be accomplished in the legislative short session.

We need to remember how much we rely on each other and on state government and work together. Don't we want emergency services when wildfires and natural disasters strike? Don't we want support for public safety? Don't we want access to health and family services? Of course we do. We depend on having a functioning government to support these programs.

When our senators walk off the job, as they did last summer, they abandon work on basic services that we need. Our senators should serve and protect us. They should not shut down the legislature. Senators, don't walk out on your responsibilities.

Stay on the job in 2020.

Mary Chaffin

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Do you know that house plants only require water half as often in winter? Keep a low light plant in your bedroom for good health!

I help owners of house plants get to know each plant they adopt. Plants need nutrients. They need to be disease- and parasite-free. Plus, they need attention!

I offer house-plant decorating, repotting and plant-sitting in Sisters, Redmond, and most of Bend.
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