

8th annual School Backpack Giveaway set for July 26

Students in Florence are about to benefit from a national backpack giveaway.

On Sunday, July 26, more than 800 participating TCC and Wireless Zone stores are teaming up to donate 140,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children through TCC's annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

This year will mark more than one million total backpacks donated since the campaign launched in 2013.

Between 1 and 4 p.m. on July 26, participating TCC stores are inviting

local families to the store to pick up backpacks for their children filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, glue and more.

Each participating store location will follow the CDC's social distancing and state guidelines to ensure the safety of employees and event attendees.

In Florence, the giveaway will take place at the Florence Verizon Wireless at TCC, 2775 Highway 101.

Each TCC store is donating up to 180 backpacks, and backpacks are available on a first-come,

first-served basis.

The Backpack Giveaway event ensures children across the U.S. are well prepared for the start of the new school year.

Five students will also have the opportunity to each win \$10,000 college scholarships.

One backpack per child will be given away to families, but to limit the number of people at the event, children are not required to be present to receive the backpack.

In an effort to promote safety, stores will host either distanced walk up or contactless drive up events for customers to

pick up back-packs.

Check your local store location for specific instructions.

In addition to the backpack donations, TCC and Wireless Zone stores will be awarding five \$10,000 college scholarships. Children in grades K-12 are eligible for entry and can be registered at their local stores during the Backpack Giveaway event.

Entries will be accepted July 24 to 31.

"We love helping students obtain essential supplies before they begin their school year each summer," said

Scott Moorehead, CEO of Round Room, parent company of TCC and Wireless Zone. "To have been able to donate more than one million backpacks to our nation's youth in the eight years of this event is incredible, and I couldn't be more thankful for our store locations, employees and customers for helping us continue to do good in our operating communities."

For a list of participating stores and to learn how your local store location will commence its Backpack Giveaway event, visit www.tccrocks.com/locations and shop.

com/locations and shop. Each participating store will donate up to 180 backpacks. Any leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

Supporters of the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway are encouraged to use hashtags #SchoolRocks and #BetterTogether on Instagram and Twitter to help spread the word.

To learn more about TCC and Wireless Zone visit www.RoundRoom.com. Round Room, LLC., is the nation's largest Verizon Authorized Wireless Retailer.

Florence Air Academy prepares for fourth season

Aero Legends Biplane Rides and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Lane County take to the skies Aug. 3-14 for the fourth annual Florence Air Academy.

All teens 12-18 are invited to apply.

The Florence Air Academy, led by COL (Retired) Terry Tomeny, will be a two-week course teaching Boys & Girls Club members the principals of aviation and information on careers in the aviation industry.

Classes will include a tour of a U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter, flying remote controlled planes, piloting drones, and the chance to go up in a plane one-on-one with an instructor pilot.

"It is that time of year — our fourth annual Air Academy is happening!" Announced Boys and

Girls Club staff. "We believe they can fly."

The Academy activities will be a combination of classroom study interspersed with hands-on activities and flight operation.

There is no cost to Boys & Girls Club of Western Lane County members.

All expenses for members are paid by Aero Legends Biplane Rides & Western Lane Community Foundation. Teens not already a club member can join for a \$25 membership fee and \$100 program fee.

The course will be conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for two consecutive weeks, Aug. 3-14.

Class time will be 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the Boys & Girls Club.

On the last day of the academy, there will be a graduation ceremony and celebration BBQ held at Hangar 26E at noon. All family members are invited to attend.

Prior to the graduation ceremony, Academy graduates will take to the skies with a qualified pilot.

Families are invited to watch graduates and hear their teen make the radio calls during flight!

Tomeny is a former USAF and Lockheed Martin Test Pilot and current Flight Instructor with over 45 years of flying experience in aircraft, ranging from Reno Air Racers to F-16 Fighters and C-17 Transports.

The last day to sign up will be July 24. Applications are available at the Boys & Girls Club Teen Center, 1501 Airport Road in Florence.

Rhody Cruisers rolling twice monthly

Rhody Cruisers will be holding a "Cars & Coffee" event at the Florence AutoZone, 1665 Highway 101, on the second and fourth Saturday of each month.

The next Cars & Coffee will be today, July 23, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Everyone is welcome. AutoZone is excited to host this event for classic cars, hot rods, foreign cars, cool trucks and motorcycles.

Rhody Cruisers will be providing coffee and donuts for us until they are gone.

The last event filled up, so come early.

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