

ATASCOCITA Forest

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Our Journey Project: The Air we Breathe

By Girl Scout Troop 9599

Have you ever wondered how dirty our air is? How about what makes it dirty? Well, so did we! So we, Girl Scout Troop 9599, decided to research some answers.

Our troop chose to do an environmental project on the air we breathe. For this project, our main focus was car pollution. We counted cars two different times, on a weekday, at peak travel times. Once in the morning and once in the evening, at the intersection of Will Clayton Pkwy and Woodland Hills Dr. You'll never guess how many cars we counted!

From the research we gathered, we learned each car emits approximately 16.25 ounces of carbon dioxide per mile. During the two hours of counting cars, we counted approximately 5,713 cars. This means there was approximately 92,979.075 ounces of carbon dioxide emitted if each car traveled at least one mile. If each car traveled at least one mile every day for 5 weekdays, there would be approximately 464,895.375 ounces of carbon dioxide. Per month it would be 1,859,581.5 ounces of carbon dioxide and per year would be 24,174,559.5 ounces of carbon dioxide. All of this pollution is emitted into our air for 5,713 cars to drive only ONE mile per weekday.

Being only Girl Scouts, there isn't much we can do. We do, however, have strong voices. If we drove less, we would have so much less pollution. Just 10% less driving would make a world of difference. Carbon dioxide is a gas that can really hurt the

environment; it actually affects the ocean tides. Driving less and walking to school would change what carbon dioxide will do to the Earth. We CAN change future destruction!

Each and every one of us has something from our project that we would like to share:

Sarah: "I learned that pollution not only effects the environment but also us too!"

Celsey: "I learned carbon dioxide affects a lot of our environment."

DJ: "This was a lot of fun and I learned how carbon dioxide affects our air."

Desiree: "I learned carbon dioxide affects the ocean."

Shelby: "I learned we need to make our air better because it is getting dirty because of car pollution."

Brianna: "It was a fun experience."

Taylor: "It was so good, words can not explain!"

KeVona: "I learned how much CO₂ a car puts out in a day."

We would like to extend a special thanks to Exxon Mobil, especially Ms. Caroline, for making this experience available to us and teaching us about our air. We would also like to thank Girl Scouts San Jacinto Council, specifically, Ms. Emily, for her dedication and hard work into making this a success.

The facts we used in our research were found online at planetgreen.discovery.com.



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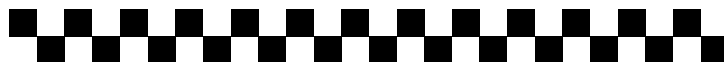
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Recipes From The Forest

CHEESY MASHED POTATO CASSEROLE

Prep Time: 40 Minutes

Total Time: 1 Hour 10 Minutes

Serves: 12 (2/3 cup per serving)

Ingredients

- 6 medium potatoes, peeled, and quartered
- 1 tablespoon salt +1 teaspoon, divided usage
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup Daisy Brand Sour Cream
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 1/2 cup French fried onions
- 2 tablespoons cooked bacon pieces

Directions

Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Butter a 1 1/2-quart casserole dish. Place the potatoes in a 3-quart saucepan; cover with cold water. Add 1 tablespoon of the salt and bring to a boil. Cover the potatoes, reduce the heat, and cook for 20 minutes or until fork-tender. Drain the potatoes. Put pan back on burner for 1 minute, shaking the pan until the potatoes are dry. Mash the potatoes with potato masher or mixer. Add the butter, sour cream, cheese, chives and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt. Mash or stir until mixed well. Spoon the mixture into a casserole dish. Bake the potatoes for 20 to 25 minutes or until hot. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with the onions and cooked bacon pieces. Return the dish to the oven and bake for an additional 5 minutes.



CHRISTMAS TAMALES

By: *Elizabeth Trujillo*

PORK BUTT

- 2 ½ lbs. Boneless pork butt
- 1 Tbsp. Garlic powder
- 1 Tsp. Salt
- 1 Tsp. Black pepper

MASA

- 10 lbs. Masa (cornmeal flour)
- 4 cups Pork lard
- ¼ cup Water
- 3 Tbsp. Baking powder
- 2 oz. Chile Ancho to color masa

TAMALE ASSEMBLY

6 dozen dried corn husks

CHILE SAUCE

- ½ lb. Chile Ancho
- 1 Tsp. Garlic powder
- ½ Tsp. Ground cumin
- 2 cups Water (stock saved from boiling the Chile Ancho)
- 2 Tbsp. Pork lard
- 2 Tbsp. Salt

Directions

1. PORK: Place pork butt in medium-size stock pot. Add the garlic, salt and pepper. Add cold water to cover the pork. On high heat, bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium low and let it simmer partly covered for about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Remove pork from the stock and let it cool at room temperature. When cook, begin shredding the meat into fine threads.

2. CHILE SAUCE: In a large saucepan, boil the chile ancho for about 10 – 12 minutes or until softened. Drain the chiles and reserve the water. Rinse the seeds out of the boiled chiles. Put the chiles, garlic and cumin in a blender and blend well. Add the 2 cups of reserved water. In a heavy, large-size saucepan, heat 2 tablespoons pork lard over medium high heat. Add the drained chile puree very carefully because it will splatter. Reduce the heat to low. Cook over low heat for about 10-15 minutes. Take sauce off the heat. (Reserve about 2 ounces of this sauce to color the masa). Combine the pork with the chile sauce.

3. MASA: Place 10 pounds of masa in a large mixing bowl. Pour water and add the baking powder over the masa evenly. Add salt and

(Continued on Page 4)



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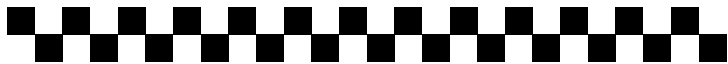
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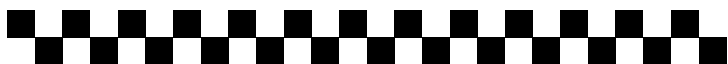
Recipes - (Continued from Page 3)

begin mixing the masa with your hands. Add the pork lard and two ounces of chile ancho sauce (this adds color to the masa) and knead the masa once more. Masa is ready when it starts to feel thick and compact. Pad it down in bowl and set it aside.

4. TAMALES ASSEMBLY: Soak the dried husks in warm water for about an hour and a half or until soft. Drain the husks well; pat dry with paper towels. For each tamale spread about 2 tablespoons of the masa mixture on each cornhusk. Spoon 2 tablespoons of the filling lengthwise down the center. Fold husk and secure with strips of cornhusk. Steam for about 1 hour.

5. STEAM TAMALES: At this point, the tamales are ready to be steamed. Use a stock pot with wire lining or steamer insert. Add enough water as to keep it below the steamer. Add a few husks to prevent the tamales from getting wet. Tamales must be placed open side up along the inside perimeter of the stock pot. Place extra husks on top the tamales and cover the pot. Steam for about an hour or until the husk peels away from the masa easily.

Serve warm or freeze after cooling.



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Registration is in progress; classes begin week of Monday, January 14.

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Class 2890 TTh 9:30–11:50a

ACCT 2402 Principles Of Accounting II
Class 2892 TTh 7:00–9:30p

ANTH 2351 Cultural Anthropology
Class 13447 TTh 11:00a–12:20p

ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation
Class 15816 MW 6:00–7:20p

BCIS 1405 Business Computer Apps
Class 16018 TTh 1:30–3:25p

BIOL 1408 Intro Biology I (Nonmajors)
Class 6837 TTh 6:00–8:50p
Class 15838 Online/Lab..... F 9:00–10:00a

BIOL 1409 Intro Biol II (Nonmajors)
Class 6981 MW 6:00–8:50p

BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Phys I
Class 6533 TTh 6:00–8:50p

BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Phys II
Class 6591 MW 6:00–8:50p

BUSI 1301 Business Principles
Class 2894 TTh 1:30–3:00p

COSC 1401 Intro to Computers
Class 16014 TTh 1:30–3:25p

EDUC 1301 Intro Teaching Profession
Class 3233 Hybrid..... MW 12:30–1:50p*
Class 3236 Hybrid..... Th 5:30–8:30p*

ENGL 0304 Dev Reading I
Class 13332 TTh 8:00–9:50p*
Class 13334 MW 9:00–10:50a*

ENGL 0305 Dev Reading II
Class 13362 TTh 10:30a–12:20p*

ENGL 0306 Dev Writing I
Class 13378 TTh 6:00–7:50p*
Class 13380 MW 11:00a–12:50p*

ENGL 0307 Dev Writing II
Class 13794 TTh 8:30–10:20a*
Class 13813 MW 12:30–2:20p*
Class 13815 MW 6:00–7:50p*

ENGL 0308 ESOL Language Skills
Class 8267 Late Start TTh 8:30–10:30a*
Class 8270 Late Start TTh 8:30–10:30a*

ENGL 0372 ESOL Writing II
Class 8321 Late Start TTh 10:40a–12:40p*

ENGL 0373 ESOL Writing III
Class 8328 Late Start TTh 10:40a–12:40p*

ENGL 1301 Comp & Rhetoric I
Class 10797 TTh 9:30–10:50a
Class 10798 TTh 11:00a–12:20p

ENGL 1302 Comp & Rhetoric II
Class 11221 TTh 8:00–9:20a
Class 11222 TTh 9:30–10:50a
Class 11223 TTh 6:00–7:20p

GEOG 1303 World Geography
Class 14111 W 6:00–8:50p

GOVT 2301 American Government I
Class 12343 MW 8:00–9:20a
Class 12346 TTh 1:30–2:50p

GOVT 2302 American Government II
Class 14105 MW 9:30–10:50a
Class 15154 M 6:00–8:50p

HIST 1301 US History to 1877
Class 3928 MW 11:00a–12:20p
Class 3929 TTh 9:30–10:50a

HIST 1302 US History Since 1877
Class 12279 TTh 8:00–9:20a
Class 12282 MW 12:30–1:50p

HIST 2301 Texas History
Class 12294 TTh 11:00a–12:20p

HUMD 0330 College Success: 1st Yr Exp
Class 12857 TTh 4:30–5:50p
Class 16005 MW 4:30–5:50p
Class 16006 TTh 7:30–8:50a
Class 16007 TTh 1:00–2:20p

MATH 0306 Pre-algebra Math
Class 11533 MW 9:30–10:50a
Class 11534 TTh 6:00–7:20p
Class 11535 TTh 8:00–9:20a
Class 14106 TTh 1:30–2:50p

MATH 0308 Intro Algebra
Class 11586 MW 11:00a–12:20p
Class 11587 TTh 6:00–7:20p
Class 11588 TTh 9:30–10:50a

MATH 0310 Intermediate Algebra
Class 11654 TTh 11:00a–12:20p
Class 11655 MW 6:00–7:25p
Class 14093 MW 8:00–9:20a

MATH 1314 College Algebra
Class 11702 MW 9:30–10:50a
Class 11704 MW 6:00–7:20p

PSYC 2301 General Psychology
Class 7017 T 6:00–9:00p
Class 7018 MW 11:00–12:20p
Class 7019 TTh 9:30–10:50a

PSYC 2314 Life-growth/Devel
Class 13434 MW 12:30–1:50p
Class 13439 W 6:00–8:50p

SOCI 1301 Principles of Sociology
Class 7015 TTh 9:30–10:50a
Class 13442 M 6:00–8:50p

SPCH 1311 Intro Speech Comm
Class 15067 TTh 9:30–10:50a

SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Comm
Class 15068 TTh 11:00a–12:20p

* = Additional lab hours may apply.

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ATASCOCITA FOREST



AtascocitaPets.org: Helping Atascocita's lost pets find their way home

Did you know that Atascocita has a website dedicated to lost and found pets? AtascocitaPets.org provides a centralized, dedicated location where area residents can post lost and found pet ads absolutely free. The website was created by local resident Lauren Shwartz, who wanted to do something to help lost pets in the area. "We saw so many lost pet posters on our neighborhood and it was so sad. I kept wondering what we would do if we lost one of our dogs, and I knew that I would want there to be a single place where we could get the word out to the community. There are several sites where people can and do post lost and found pet listings, but ads can quickly get buried and people may not see them. So I decided to build a site only for lost and found pets in the Atascocita area," Lauren explains.

The website is very user friendly and straightforward: users need only register to post an ad. And there's no need to worry about being added to a spam list or receiving unsolicited emails. "I designed the site to protect the information of our neighbors," Lauren says. "I am the only person who has access to the site. We don't ask for sensitive information in the first place, and no one has to worry about identity theft or anything like that."

Even though the website is completely free to use, it offers several features not found on other sites. When a user creates an ad, the website creates a unique QR code that links to that ad on the website. "I thought that using QR code technology would be beneficial in this application. You can save the QR code and put it on your lost pet posters. Then, when people are driving by, rather than stopping and writing down the information they can simply 'snap' the code with their smartphone and be instantly taken to the ad with the pet's photo, information, and contact details."

The website is also tightly integrated with social media. "Facebook is so common now, so I included a feature that auto-posts new ads to our Facebook page. Users can also share the ad they create on their own Facebook page, right from the website. The most important thing is for the information to be as visible and accessible as possible. This isn't about generating traffic to the site, it's about helping lost pets find their way home."

For those who don't use social media as much, AtascocitaPets.org also offers a 'Lost Pet Amber Alert system.' "This is probably my favorite feature," Lauren says, "Whenever a new lost pet ad is posted on the site, the LPAA system sends out a single email the next morning containing the ads' information." Subscription to this service is entirely voluntary, and subscribers will only receive an email if there were any lost pet ads posted the previous day. "I

designed this system with the idea that local veterinarians, animal rescues, and other entities could subscribe, as well as individual residents," Lauren explains.

Lauren also points out that the site is still under development and new features will be added soon, and she is also in the process of creating a sister site for Kingwood. "I just want to do what I can to help. This isn't about money or notoriety. The website doesn't cost me anything but time, and I'm always open to ideas and suggestions from the community. As a pet mom, I understand the unique bond people have with their pets and how devastating it can be when one is lost. If this website can help even one family be reunited with their pet then that's worth every minute I've spent on this project."

Visit the website at AtascocitaPets.org

Lauren can be contacted with questions or suggestions at lauren@atascocitapets.org, or (281) 745 - 0604

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