

Chapter of the Year 2010

The Explorers Chapter of Omaha, Nebraska

was formed in 1965. They currently have 18 very active families.



Our chapter members (2) participated in bike riding activities at district, state and national campouts in 2009. Four member families participated in walking activities at district and national. Members are not interested in mileage tabs, most all have the five and ten mile tabs. Our members will take walks around the camp grounds together at

various campouts (6 to 8 members).

Fifteen members in April, 2009 at our district campout at Syracuse, Nebraska attended a drug dog presentation put on by a deputy of the sheriff department. It was an excellent presentation. The deputy also answered questions and used his presentation to inform members about what they may come in contact with while camping and to be aware of their surroundings. This presentation also went into noting individuals with drug habits. One of our members actually arranged the above.

Our members are very active in DAT. Those of us who have our CPR training update every two years. In 2009 six members updated their cards.

Through an event that we put on each Christmas for Ronald McDonald we use are skills for cooking for large groups. We do this every December and did so in December 2009. This year we served forty plus families and children at the house.

The Explorer Chapter has since 1991, has set up a conservation project at Mahoney State Park – Ashland, Nebraska in April each year. We did so again in April, 2009. The weekend is devoted to several different projects assigned by the park administration. This past year, our members put wood shavings around trees in the park, cleaned up debris around the lake and other parts of the grounds, painted up at the pool area, raked leaves by the marina, cleaned buildings in the marina area, cleaned out fire pits etc. Seventeen members participated in this conservation project. We also invited a ROTC group of young people (6) who wanted to work with us at the park. Using a figure of \$8 an hour (which is less then park employees make) our members saved the park around \$2500 plus that weekend. This is a great volunteer project that the park has enjoyed.

Members collect pop tabs throughout the year for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha, Nebraska.

Members collect pop cans for a scout troop out of Bellevue so that they earn funds to attend activities.

Members collected old cell phones and turned them into the YWCA – for battered women to use.

The chapter has two teens that our members. One of our teens was the Nebraska Teen Queen and the other first runner-up on the state level. Our teen that was the Nebraska Teen Queen participated in the National Teen Queen contest at National in 2009. She was awarded fourth runner up and also was awarded Miss Congeniality.

The chapter supported her by donated funds to her as well as donating funds and building a float for her for the parade. Our members were the majority of the individuals that built the float. Of course she didn't get to ride on the float since she rode on the National float. Our state runner-up for Nebraska Teen Queen rode the float . She is also a member of the chapter.

The teens helped to build the float for National. They also are active in our conservation project, DAT, all community related projects.

One of our members is the state teen director.

The chapter donated funds to the teen that graduated from high school to help her towards her education.

One of our member families, were voted to represent our state by holding the title of Retiree King and Queen for Nebraska. They attended the state campvention for retirees as well as the National campvention for retirees and the 2009 National Campvention. Some of our other members attended the National Retiree activities at the National Campvention in July.

The chapter has always supported the scholarship fund by donating funds. On the state level, the chapter has two member families on the Nebraska Scholarship Board. Members of the chapter support the scholarship auction by bringing items to be sold on the silent auction which takes place each statewide. They did this in June, 2009. Several members purchase items off the auction which brings in monies to the Scholarship.

One of the families of the chapter are the National Wildlife Directors. The chapter donated funds to the National Wildlife Program,. Several of our members donated items for the silent auction at National for Wildlife as well as helping in the booth at National 2009. One of the members of the chapter wrote a Wildlife Grant Application and submitted it. The grant was awarded funds for Platte River State Park.

A member of the chapter is the state youth director. We have four youth in the chapter. They participate in the activities of the chapter etc., conservation, community activities, DAT etc., as well as state and district activities. They also do conservation and camping is posters.

One of our member families helped out our National Historian this past National since she was unable to attend because of illness. They helped out with the entire contest as well as the seminar for history. Our chapter did not have a scrapbook to enter this year. We take pictures etc. of activities that the chapter does. We have entered in the past several years.

The chapter has received publicity through the Omaha World Herald which goes across Nebraska and in parts of Iowa etc. for the chapter's conservation project at Mahoney State Park in April 2009. TV news media also came to the park during the project and interviewed some of our members and it was later aired on television that evening. The state parks newsletter also mentioned the conservation project that the Explorers did that goes out to all their commissioners and state employees.

Also two members of the chapter were asked by the State Parks Commission if they could be interviewed by the Lincoln Star Newspaper regarding park permit sales for the Nebraska Parks and their thoughts on whether attendance was less because of the gas prices etc. This interview also gave FCRV publicity since the paper knew the members were members of FCRV.

Also one of the families, camp host each summer and was interviewed by the news media in June, 2009. FCRV gets a good plug during this interview as well and it was aired on television.

The chapter received publicity in the Missouri Valley newspaper for their continued support of Special Olympics in that town. The chapter was the first to sponsor children to special Olympics in that town. Now most all of the children in Special Olympics are sponsored.

Our chapter is extremely active in community activities. Our chapter sells chances on a couple items each year and all the funds are donated to charitable causes.

In April 2009, our chapter sponsored four individuals to Special Olympics, so that they could attend state games.

In April 2009, our chapter donated \$100 to the American Diabetes Association.

In August, 2009, our chapter donated \$250 to a family for medicine for a little boy who has autism. This family incurs several \$100 a month for special medicine and food for Rykin.

In late August, 2009, the chapter members themselves purchased school items for children in need such as paper, pencils, colors, book bags, etc. and donated the items to the Salvation Army for distribution to children in need of school supplies.

In September, 2009, our chapter donated \$250 to a family for an infant child for heart surgery. This little child was going to have more than one surgery.

In September, 2009, one of our families volunteered at Ponca State Park Exop.

At Christmas, our chapter put on a dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. The chapter purchased gifts for each of the children and their siblings in the house and at University Medical Center. A couple that belong to our chapter dress up as Mr. and Mrs. Santa and talk to each of the children and present them with the gifts.

The chapter adopted four children from the Angel Tree (these children's parents or parent are in prison). The chapter purchases clothing and toys for the children.

The chapter adopted a Salvation Army family during the holidays. The chapter purchased toys and clothing for the children and provided the family with a \$75 grocery gift certificate.

The chapter donated \$250 to the Food Pantry in their local community along with canned items that the members themselves brought to donate.

Two of our chapter members families volunteer as camp hosts at a local state park in Nebraska. One of the families volunteer for three weeks and the other volunteer for six weeks.

The above are the community activities done in the name of FCRV, which of course does not include what the members do for our own state district and state activities for FCRV.