



The Tusker Tribune

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Fall 2022

A Tribute to Our Veterans



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

*(Rhythm =
Pledge of Allegiance)*

I pledge respect to the veterans of
the United States of America
And to the sacrifice for which they
make
One Nation
Safe for All
Love
And Appreciation
Is what we owe them all.



It's Important to Learn About Our Veterans



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

Veterans are so important.

Do Your Duty

Think of this : Two kids are fighting on the playground, and you know it's best to stay out of it. But what if one child is bullied by a mean kid? You'd want to stop the bully, either by yourself or by calling a teacher to intervene.

What does it mean to be a veteran?

To be a veteran means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

Who are veterans and what do they do?

A veteran is a person who has served in the military. They swear an oath to defend our country.

Fun facts about Veterans

Eleven percent of veterans are women. In the Vietnam War, 5.9 million veterans served. An additional 7.8 million veterans served in the Gulf War era. Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 240,000 were still alive as of 2021.

Hopefully this story helped you learn more about veterans!



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The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

Somers Middle School
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Littering Hurts All of Us



By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff

Littering is **NOT** good for our environment. People can get very sick. Ocean animals can die. Animals may think that the garbage floating in the ocean is food, but it's garbage and they are dying because of that.



Here are some facts about littering. U.S. roadways accumulate over 51 billion pieces of litter per year. There are an estimated 6,729 pieces of litter per roadway mile, and on average, there are 152 pieces of litter for every U.S. resident.

Here's how we can help to prevent this from happening: put your garbage in a bin, and keep a bag in your car to collect garbage.

There is a lot more we can do to prevent littering but these are just some tips.

Do you think that you can help the environment by not littering and putting your garbage where it belongs? Now don't just stand there, go do something!

Sixth Grade Boundless Adventures Ropes Trip!

Story is on
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Photos by Mr. Dell and Mrs. Manko



Tornados and Hurricanes Compared

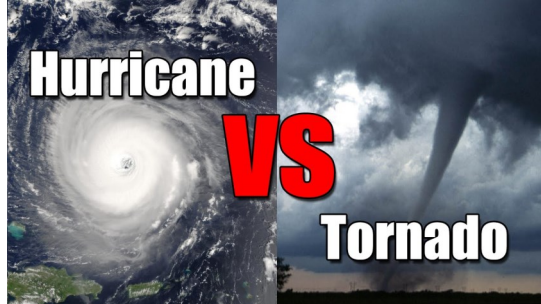


**By Gianna Peanamanda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Hurricanes develop in a warm ocean. They will usually last a week or more. The winds can range from 74-154 miles per hour.

Hurricanes normally happen in August, September, and October. To be safe during a hurricane, you will want to evacuate or go to the center of your house.

Now, time for Tornadoes. Tornadoes form on land or in the ocean. They last 15 minutes or less. The wind speed can be up to 310 miles per hour.



Tornadoes usually occur in spring and early summer. To be safe when a tornado is approaching, you will want to go into your basement or underground.

Most tornadoes occur in Tornado Alley, a region of the U.S. covering Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

As you can see hurricanes and tornadoes have major differences. I hope my story helped you know more about hurricanes and tornadoes and now you are

very prepared next time a hurricane or tornado happens!

Two Views on the 6th Grade Ropes Trip

Ropes Trip Built 6th Grade Team Up



**By Jack Loscher
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The 6th Grade Boundless Adventures field trip was a success. At first it was a little slow but once everyone got their harness on and went through the directions, kids partnered up, went in groups, or even alone.

All courses included ziplines and many different obstacles. A very popular course was Ralphie's Run. Even some teachers went on the course.

When the field trip was over, taking off the harness was a relief. This field trip was especially special to make 6th graders feel welcome to SMS. Once again, this field trip was a success!

6th Grade Loved the Ropes Trip



**By Craig Steinberg
Tusker Tribune Staff**

The Boundless Adventures trip was very fun. The 6th graders should go on it every year. The best run on the course, in my opinion, was Ralph's Run.

Hudson Meza said, "I liked the amount of freedom we had".

Jack Quinn said, "I liked the ziplines."

The bus ride was pretty short. In the beginning, the training went by fast if you listened. The staff were very nice and that helps when you want to have fun.

The first run was pretty scary at first, but once we got used to it, that went away.

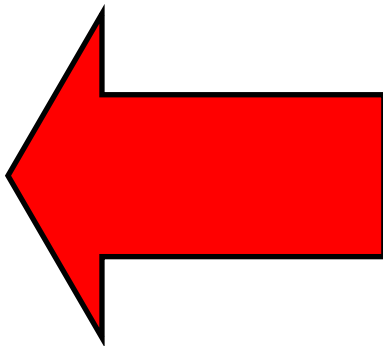
Marco Pomponi said, "I loved everything about it."

Luc Conti said, "It was very adventurous and fun."

Ms. Dolan said that the ziplines were the best. I agree with that.

James Seaboldt added, "My favorite thing was the Green Runs. When you needed help, they came right away."

The Boundless Adventures trip was overall a great and fun trip. If someone were to ask me if they should go, I would tell them, "Yes!"



**Ropes
Trip
Photos
on Page
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2/10 global problems and how to fix them



**By Sophia Valenzuela
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Editor's Note: This is an ongoing series presenting 20 global problems and solutions to fix them. This is the second installment. The first installment ran in the

10/14/22 issue of the Tusker Tribune.

There are many world problems that need to be solve but our #2 most important world problems is climate change.

Climate change is long term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Climate change can damage the earth by causing such things as intense droughts, storms, heat waves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and warming oceans.

Not only is this bad for our earth, this also can affect animals. These animals are polar bears, snow leopards, giant pandas, tigers, monarch butterflies, Asian elephants, and the green sea turtle. This could all even make them go extinct.



But what's also needed to know is why and what is causing climate change.

For starters:

1. generating power
2. Manufacturing goods
3. Cutting down forests
4. Using transportation
5. Producing food
6. Powering buildings.

All of these build up our big global problem of climate change.

However, in general, humans are just consuming too much—using too much energy, light and power.

In all fairness, as kids, we can't make all of this stop but we can definitely help with this problem.

For example, simply turn off the lights more often. Even if you just

follow this rule, you're helping to save energy. If you're not in the room, the lights shouldn't be on. This will go towards helping with climate change.

Another thing is spreading awareness to adults. Making posters can spread awareness. Posting on social media helps, too.

Taking care of the earth should be a big priority for everyone.

A Poetic Tribute to Air Pods



**By Anonymous
Tusker Tribune Staff**

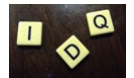
Air-pods.
Airplane.
Jet.
Boat.



Transportation.
From anywhere I am, to
anywhere I want to be,
You will take me there.
Through the transportation of my air-pods,
I shall fly.
You can make me smile
and bring the sun out on a rainy day.
You can make me feel things,
Almost SEE things.
I love you music,
But I love you, too, air-pods,
as you insure I can be in my own world,
like just for a moment in time, it is just me and
music;
You are what bring me to peace,
Almost like I have it all to myself,
Music should be shared with the world,
But I thank you that for as long as I want,
you allow me to experience it how I want, away
from judgment, and worry.
In my own little world that an airplane, a jet, or
a boat,
will never discover.



WORD LADDER:



**By Derek Sheldon
Tusker Tribune Staff**

How to be late, one letter at a time!

Directions: Change one letter between each line to create a new word that fits the next clue.

B E L L

Wall _ _ _ _

Hay _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ Cookies

_ _ _ _ Ontario

L A T E

A Cliff Hanger Story . . . Part 2



By Natalie Snyder
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: This is part 2 of Natalie's story. Part 1 appeared in the 11/4/22 issue of the Tusker Tribune.

As we approached the cliff, we jumped over the Do Not Enter sign and started climbing. My foot slipped, I did not have a harness and I fell...

I felt the wind swooshing though my hair, my heart pounding. Sam jumped down and caught me.

"Sam, I do not think this will be a good idea anymore" I said.

"Oh please, you're just a chicken" he said "Bbock Bock Booooo!" he added, imitating a chicken.

"Fine," I said.

We started climbing again. Out of nowhere, I hear "click" "clack" and a thud. I looked down and started to cry. No-no-no! This cannot be happening! I am about 70 ft in the air and Sam had fallen.

I start to cry for help. "HELP! HELP!" My heart is racing and then I fell, too. The wind once again was going through my hair. *Whoosh, whoosh!* And there is no one to catch me this time.

I wake up and my mom and Linsey are over me. "Sweetie, are you OK?" mom asks.

"How's Sam?" I ask.

"Not good sweetie, not good," mom says.

The doctor walks in. "You broke your leg and have a mild concussion," she says.

It has been about three months and Sam is still in a coma. Then mom comes in. "Sweetie, I have something to tell you," she says.

"What mom, what?"

"Sam died, sweetie." As the words fall out

her mouth, I fall and bury my head in my arms.

"NO! This cannot be happening!!!"

I wake up on the floor, dried up tears running down my face, tissues crumpled up. My mom walks in quietly. "Hi honey. How are you doing?"

"Good," I say in a quiet mumble.

"We need to get you help."

"Fine."

Two years later, I am in college thriving better than I have been in a long time since the accident. But there is one thing I have not conquered yet—climbing.

My mom says I should, but it is just too hard. In the morning, I am coming back home for summer break.

I wake up and start the 30-minute drive home. I pulled into my driveway. My mom and Linsey are waiting for me. I park and run out of the car. "MOM!" I scream while running and we finally meet and hug. She grabs my waist and picks me up. "Are you ready? I have a surprise for you!" she says.

She puts a blindfold on me, and we got in the car and started driving. We pull in and mom pulls my arm and takes my blindfold off. We're at the North Land cliff. She jumps over the Do Not Enter sign and starts to climb.

"ARE YOU COMING?" she yells.

"I can't," I yell back.

"Yes you can, honey. You could do whatever you put your mind to." As her words reach me, I jump over the sign and start to climb. Left, right, left, and right. I start to see the sun peeking through the clouds, and I know I am almost at the top. As I reach the top, my heart starts to pound, my hands touch flat ground, so I pull myself up. I look at the sun, I look down and I know that Sam will be forever by my side.



Join NJHS!



By Ava Schmidberger
Tusker Tribune Staff

The National Junior Honor Society is an international student organization that consists of chapters in middle schools. To be considered for NJHS, you have to have an overall average of 90 or higher, complete an application, maintain positive behavior and attendance, as well as complete 10 (6th grade) or 15 (7th and 8th grade) service hours.

How/Where to Get Service Hours

One of the hardest parts of NJHS is finding places you can volunteer for service hours. There are two ways to complete your service hours, at home or at a location. Sometimes it is hard to find time to volunteer so volunteering at home may be the better option.



Volunteer Opportunities Near Somers

- Service Club (SMS)
- Friends of Karen
- Putnam Humane Society
- Somers Library
- Danbury Animal Welfare Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- Make a Wish

Volunteer Opportunities at Home

- Make Cards for Soldiers
- Color a Smile
- Create Blankets and Food Baskets to Donate

You may also write stories for the **Tusker Tribune** School Newspaper and get service hours for each story you write.