



The Pioneer Projects and Programs Periodical

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Aliant Pioneers Support Canadian Troops
- 2 Supporting Our Troops
- 4 Picnic for Troops
- 5 Dear American Hero Cards
- 6 Sasktel Pioneer TPACs
- 6 Pioneers Welcome Home Wounded Soldier
- 7 Power Up To Read Training Schedule
- 7 Project Connect Training Schedule
- 8 Chapter Spotlights
- 9 Debby DeVenezia & Naomi Alvarez in the Limelight
- 10 PC Tournaments
- 11 Pioneer Project Updates
- 12 Pioneer Updates
- 12 Pioneer Resources

Message from the President

PUTR Books Used For More Than Supplementing Main Program

Power Up To Read (PUTR) has quickly gained a reputation among educators and students as a powerful learning tool. And thanks to the increasing number of Pioneers who have embraced the program, PUTR's growth continues on an upward trend.

Now we can take PUTR to an even higher level by harnessing the full marketing potential of its supporting literature. PUTR books offer an outstanding opportunity to get the Pioneer sponsor company and/or self-sponsored group brand out into the community via multiple outlets.

Besides using the books to supplement the PUTR curriculum or as a reward for completing the program, Pioneers can purchase the books to insert into student backpacks, as holiday stocking fillers, and to be included with supplies donated to community shelters.

The books can also be donated to schools or public libraries, children's wards in hospitals, after-school programs; anywhere there might be a need for books. Not only will this increase the brand presence of TCP and the PUTR program, but it could serve as a tool for recruiting new members. Coordinating the distribution of the books could be a quick and easy introduction to Pioneering for a colleague, family member, or friend interested in volunteering with Pioneers.

Please encourage your members to use their creativity to increase the market for PUTR print books. By doing so, we are getting PUTR into the market, promoting it, influencing behavior, encouraging use of the program, and best of all, increasing our distribution to even more students.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

*-Former U.S. 1st Lady
Eleanor Roosevelt*

-Marty Lee, President, TelecomPioneers



Aliant Pioneers Show Support for Canadian Troops

Submitted by Michael Sears, Manager, Aliant Pioneers

Aliant Pioneer Volunteers and Aliant are showing their support for Canadian troops by offering to employees and retirees a "Support the Troops" pin. These pins were purchased by Aliant from the Military Resource Centre as a fundraiser and have been provided to our employees and retirees who ask for them, free of charge. In the past year, the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers have distributed thousands of these pins.

In addition to the pins, many employee and Pioneer groups have "Red Fridays." Each Friday of the year, employees and retirees are encouraged to wear Red to show support for our Troops. In addition to wearing red, our employees and retirees wear their "Support the Troop" pins with pride.

To read more about Red Fridays, visit <http://www.redfridays.ca/>

Supporting Our Troops

By Bekah Wyman, TelecomPioneers Program Coordinator

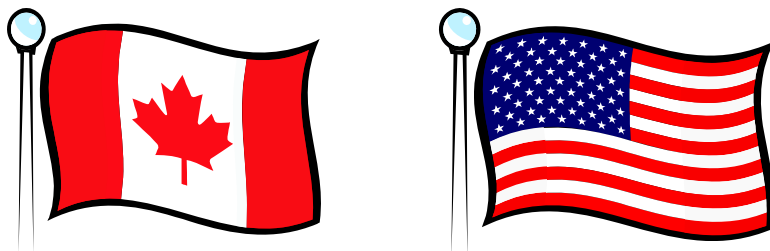
Every day, men and women all over the world fight for freedom. As Canada Day and Independence Day come and go, we are reminded of the sacrifices these soldiers make on our behalf throughout the year.

Pioneers have done much to bring joy to those deployed overseas, and continue to provide support. From sending care packages with homemade goodies and calling cards, to shoeboxes full of hygiene supplies and treats, and cards to soldiers they don't even personally know, Pioneers consistently support the troops and show their gratitude and admiration for what each soldier represents and sacrifices.

Some examples of great Pioneer projects to support the troops follow.

Project *Distance Learning from Iraq*

This project was designed by Pioneers to educate children from kindergarten through high school. The project emphasized the importance of literacy and education, and also taught the students about the differences between America and a foreign country. Pioneers teamed up with two U.S. Marines deployed in Iraq who were both involved with reading programs prior to deployment. The Pioneers were able to communicate with the Marines via donated telecommunications equipment, technical assistance was donated, and use of the satellite facilities and Iraq equipment for the connection to Iraq was donated by the Freedom Calls Foundation. The Marines were able to read stories to younger students and conduct interviews with older students. Students also held a book drive and shipped the books to Iraq for distribution to Iraqi children.



Please see Troops on page 3

Troops from page 2

Project Troop to Troop

Girl Scout cookies are donated to Project *Troop to Troop* and shipped to Fort Hood in Dallas, TX, for the USO and the American Red Cross to distribute to soldiers stationed in the U.S. and overseas.

Project Helmet Liners

Some Pioneers have put the *Hug-a-Bear* project on hold to crochet wool helmet liners for soldiers to wear under their helmets during the extreme bitterness of winter. Neck coolers were made for summer weather and sent to troops, along with Hug-a-Bears for soldiers to give Iraqi children.

Project Memorial Day Service

Pioneers decorate the graves of fallen soldiers on Memorial Day with flags provided by the cemetery.

Project Friday Night Lights in Iraq

Pioneers wanted to give those young men serving in Iraq some time away from the war and an opportunity to be a part of their hometown community again, even if just for a few hours. Pioneers were able to broadcast a high school football game to Camp Al Asad, Iraq, enabling the soldiers to enjoy "the next best thing" to being home on a Friday night. For one night Pioneers "brought them home" to the community and loved ones left behind. The Pioneers also hosted a tailgating party for those military families with sons or daughters in Iraq and donated calling cards for families to send to the soldiers.

Project Freedom Calls & Videoconferencing

Pioneers facilitated videoconference calls between military families and soldiers overseas. Each family was given 30 minutes for a "video visit." These conferences also offered a side benefit as families waiting for their conference to start grew to know and support each other.

Using videoconferencing, one father was able to see his newborn son for the first time, another soldier was able to get reports from his expectant wife, and still another soldier was able to attend his brother's wedding as the Best Man; he was even able to toast the happy newlyweds!

Pioneers also sent care packages with phone cards so soldiers could call their loved ones.

Project Motorcycle Run for Troops

This Run was to raise awareness of the support we have for our Armed Forces troops by using the motorcycles to make it stand out on the highways across Texas. Since 2005, this project has raised funds for support groups who help raise morale by supporting the troops and their families during deployments and injury recuperation.

Two spin-off runs were held in July of 2007. San Ramon, CA and Reno, NV held a run. Then Hoffman Estates, IL held a separate run.

The goals were to raise awareness for the needed support of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, while raising funds for the support groups' activities. Also, to show the troops how much we here at home believe in them and support them while they are sacrificing for our freedom.

This project allows motorcycle enthusiasts to group together and make a show of their support of our troops. It also allows others to donate to the cause and be recognized for supporting our troops. The location in Texas was chosen so that it was equidistant between all cities to make it in one day. The location was also chosen as it is next to Fort Hood Army Post where soldiers are being shipped overseas to defend our freedoms. The motorcycles, pulling in from different directions and then moving out as one is a phenomenal experience.

Please see Troops on page 4

*Troops from page 3***Project *Welcome Home***

This project focuses on Pioneers planning and executing a homecoming celebration for local soldiers returning from overseas. Soldiers returning from the Iraq war zone are met at the airport with cheers, hugs, snacks, and calling cards. These warriors are either returning for rest and relaxation or permanently. Greeting these troops creates fellowship within the community and moral support for the troops.

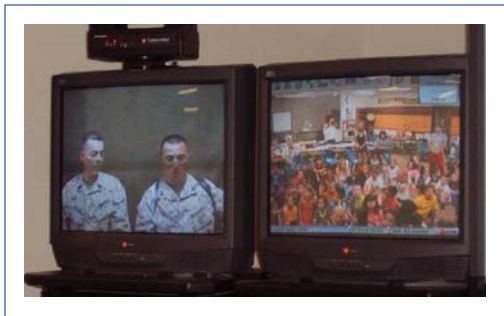
USO personnel have always provided for troop comforts. However, an organized effort by Pioneers to become involved was created and designed by individual councils. Local Pioneers organize an event (snacks are purchased, calling cards are acquired), the event is announced (via email, newsletters, etc.) and the arrival airplane is met by rallying Pioneers wearing branded shirts. These events have fostered patriotism among Pioneers, USO personnel, and the community at large. "People caring" really goes a long way toward supporting our troops. The gratitude expressed by the troops is heart-warming.



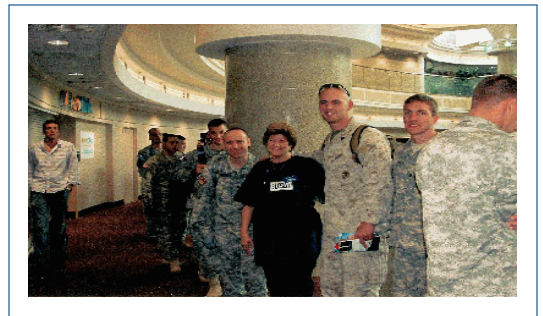
*Pioneers
crocheting
helmet liners
(left)*



*Soldiers modeling
Pioneers hats in
Iraq (right)*



*Distance Learning
from Iraq via
videoconference
(left)*



*Pioneers welcome
soldiers returning
from overseas
(right)*

Pioneers Help Host Picnic for Troops

Submitted by Paul Redline, President, Maryland Chapter

The Verizon Maryland Chapter of TelecomPioneers partnered with the Reisterstown American Legion Auxiliary and hosted a picnic for approximately 200 plus troops and their families from Camp Fretterd, Reisterstown, MD. The picnic was held on Sunday, July 13, 2008 from 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., at the Reisterstown American Legion, which is around the corner from the Camp.

The troops first had their usual weekend drills. After the drills, the troops met up with their families and came to the Legion Post to be treated to a down-home picnic, cooked and served by the Reisterstown Ladies Auxiliary and the Maryland Pioneers. The troops and their families could dance and sing to the music provided by Bringles Jingles. After eating, they could relax with a game of horseshoes, volleyball, or croquet. We also had games for the kids.

We had this picnic last year and the troops had such a good time they asked if we could do this every month. Unfortunately, we can't host the picnic every month, but we sure can give them the picnic of their lives once a year!

Even the commanding officers were so thankful we gave this picnic that they let the troops get off early to attend the picnic and enjoy themselves.

Dear American Hero

Submitted by Jennifer Moore, President, Seattle Council of Qwest Pioneers

We first heard about the *Dear American Hero Cards* at a chapter meeting this spring when our Yakima group shared its great success with this project. The Seattle Council of Qwest Pioneers in Washington liked what we heard and decided we would like to help honor the men and women who serve our country.

The organization Dear American Hero has a unique way to do this. They have "Thank You" cards about the size of a business card that can be given to a service person or one that can be given to a family that has someone serving in the military. It was started by a man whose goal is to get a card into the hands of every American Hero at least once. He is conducting the campaign on donations and funds out of his own pocket.

We have invited our employees in the Puget Sound area to join us in handing the cards out whenever they see a person in a military uniform, or to a family they know whose loved one is serving. Starting July 4th and through our Seafair celebrations, there will be increased military personnel around Puget Sound.

Volunteers will be walking downtown streets as well as at the parades and other local events. You can even spot military folks and their families at the airport. Approaching soldiers and families and handing them a card is a great way to say "thank you" for their sacrifices. The cards can also be mailed to people you know who are serving. What a great way to spend our Independence Day - thanking those who keep us free.

For more information on the organization you can go to:

<http://dearamericanhero.com/index.htm>



SaskTel Pioneer TPACs

Submitted by Darrell Leibrecht, SaskTel Pioneers

The SaskTel Pioneers have areas to do their work in thanks to the generosity of their sponsor company. These areas are called Telephone Pioneer Activity Centers (TPAC) in Saskatchewan.

SaskTel Pioneers are located in nine major centers in the province and have five activity centers to work in. SaskTel also provides space in another four areas located on company property to work on our *Computers for Schools* program.

Some activities that take place in the TPACs include the sale of used computers and furniture donated by SaskTel to be used as a fundraiser for the Pioneers. One of the centers has a birthday party every month where the Life Members celebrate the birthdays of the members in their club. They also gather for Monday lunches, coffee breaks and various other fellowship opportunities. *Hug-a-Bears*, *Heart Pillows*, woodworking and horticultural activities all take place in the centers. At the Regina TPAC, there is a blood donor clinic held every Thursday.

This is also a great place to hold club or chapter meetings and training sessions. This also a place to display awards, pictures of projects, upcoming events, and a memorial for those who have passed away. TPACs can also be rented out to Pioneers for personal use/events.

In 2007, the activity centers were used 877 times. Currently, Chapter 59 is working with SaskTel to add 3 more TPACs in the province. The SaskTel Pioneers are very proud of their centers and are very grateful to SaskTel for not only the space but for paying the utilities as well. This is just one example of a very healthy relationship between SaskTel and the SaskTel Pioneers!



Pioneers Welcome Home Wounded Soldier

Submitted by Howard Manning, AT&T Pioneer and Barbara Baldwin, AT&T Pioneer Regional Manager

On June 21, 2008, Army Specialist Andrew Howard came home to Stoughton, WI. He was serving with the Bravo Company, 114th Infantry in Iraq.

Howard was the victim of an explosive device in Sadr City, Iraq, while on his way to help a tanker hit by a grenade. His Stryker was hit three times and caught on fire. Howard escaped the vehicle but suffered second- and third-degree burns.

He was initially treated in Baghdad before being sent to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, TX, to receive expert burn treatment. While in San Antonio, Andrew and his family received support from San Antonio Council Pioneers and their partners. Pioneers regularly visited Andrew at BAMC to deliver cards from AT&T employees across the U.S., cases of Girl Scout cookies sent by Wisconsin Pioneers, and posters made by children of AT&T Pioneers.

While Andrew was treated at BAMC, his family stayed at the Powless Guest House at BAMC and received support, food baskets, and encouragement from Pioneer leaders and their partners. Andrew's grandparents from Wisconsin visited on Armed Forces Day, and the entire family enjoyed a BBQ picnic hosted by the *Returning Heroes Home Project*. The volunteers at the picnic were members of the San Antonio Council Pioneers!

To view the *Capital Times* news story: <http://www.madison.com/tct/news/292728>



Andrew Howard shown with sisters Laura (left) and Rachel (right)

We encourage Pioneers to attend training sessions that are being offered for the programs below. The sessions last about an hour and provide a high-end overview of the programs as well as a visual walk-through of the website features. Pioneers can obtain a username and password (if one has not already been assigned) to navigate and become familiar with the websites. The meetings are offered through WebEx and make great presentations for group meetings.

Project Connect Training Schedule- July:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Friday, July 18, 2008	2:00 p.m.
Monday, July 21, 2008	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.

Project Connect Training Schedule-August:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Tuesday, August 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
Monday, August 11, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 21, 2008	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.

PUTR Training Schedule-July:

Date	Time (Mountain)
Wednesday, July 16, 2008	8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 22, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Monday, July 28, 2008	3:00 p.m.

PUTR Training Schedule-August

Date	Time (Mountain)
Thursday, August 7, 2008	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 13, 2008	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 19, 2008	1:00 p.m.
Friday, August 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.

To register for a WebEx training session please call Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator, at 800-872-5995, extension 250, or e-mail bwyman@telecompioneers.org

Each session is limited to 15 participants. After you have been registered for a session you will be e-mailed the meeting details. Please try to register at least 2 days in advance.

We will also work with you to schedule PC and PUTR demonstrations during your unit meetings. Please let us know which program you would like demonstrated and when you typically have unit meetings.

If you register for a meeting and you can no longer attend, please either decline the WebEx invitation or contact Bekah to re-schedule for a later date and time.

Spotlight on Excelsior Chapter

Submitted by Steve Kohn, Verizon Vice President, TelecomPioneers

At a secluded place in New York, where women can seek refuge after experiencing domestic violence, there is now technology available to learn computer skills and educate them on programs beneficial to their well-being.

A \$5,000 grant given by the Leatherstocking Council of the Excelsior Chapter and the Verizon Foundation made way for four new Dell computers and a LaserJet printer that women and their children at Willow Commons can use for several purposes. Willow Commons is a transitional housing unit in an undisclosed location due to the sensitive nature of the facility's objective; it empowers victims of domestic violence with education and literacy while helping them overcome their hardships.

"Women can practice everything from resume writing, typing skills, Power Point training, and parent-child programs in a way that empowers them rather than us doing it for them," said Evon Ervin, Director of Transitional Housing. "Some residents don't speak or can't write in English, and this helps them with language and keyboarding skills."

Other programs on the computer are available to children of the residents during their stay at Willow Commons, including Verizon's Thinkfinity.com.

Other projects of the Excelsior Chapter include:

- *A Student's Dictionary*: The dictionaries are part of the Verizon TelecomPioneers signature education project, to be provided to third through fifth students in local schools.
- *Hug-a-Bears*: Hug-A-Bears were created by the Pioneers to provide comfort to children in traumatic or unfamiliar situations. The bears are donated to public safety, fire, rescue and emergency medical personnel to be given to children.
- *Smart Bears*: Smart Bears are similar to Hug-A-Bears, but are equipped with a book bag and a book to encourage reading in the home for children in kindergarten through third grade.
- *Heart Pillows*: Heart Pillows are designed to give comfort to hospital patients recovering from open heart surgery and are distributed to local hospitals.

<http://www.verizonexcelsiorpioneers.org/index.htm>

Contact the Excelsior Chapter # 98

Email: maggieab49@aol.com

Chapter Manager: Midge Brandao
Phone: 636-447-8237

Leatherstocking Club President: Chris Proulx
Email: Christine.v.proulx@verizon.net

Spotlight on Southern States Chapter

New Outlook Southern States Chapter 134 covers Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The membership includes the Lucent, Avaya, Agere regular and retired employees in addition to over 3,000 former Bell System affiliate Pioneer Life members. Chapter 134 members welcome all retired Pioneers from the former Bell System companies to join with them in fellowship and various Pioneer projects.

The Ronald McDonald House program in Orlando, FL, is an ongoing project of the New Outlook/AT&T Orlando Club. Over 7,000 families, representing 28 countries, 43 states, and 56 Florida counties have called the two Orlando houses "home" since the opening of the original house in December 1996. The program provides parents or families of children in the hospital with serious health problems a place to stay during that period. There is not a charge for this service. The club has assisted the Ronald McDonald program in many different ways, including the *Pop Tab Collection* project. Since the project began in the summer of 1997, more than 147 million tabs have been collected. The sale of these tabs raised over \$46,000 dollars that was donated to the program.

Other notable Chapter 134 projects include packages and supplies for troops, toys for schools, *Heart Pillows*, quilts & robes for nursing homes, blankets & pajamas for the Children's Home Society of Florida, and *Pizza for Honor Students*.

<http://newoutlookpioneers.org/>

Debby DeVenezia and Life Member Naomi Alvarez in the Limelight

Submitted by Mariaelena Azzolino, President, AT&T Pioneers Northeast Chapter 125

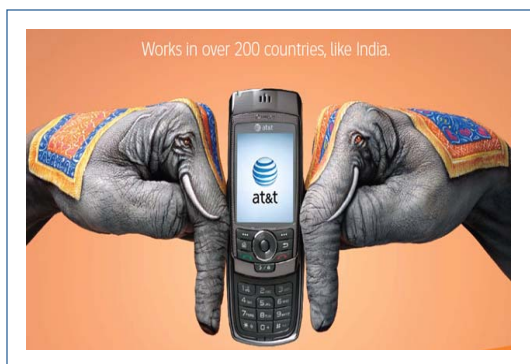
Debby DeVenezia, Naomi Alvarez, and their team thought outside the box to implement a four-hour educational workshop designed to have children start thinking about their futures, introduce them to various career opportunities, and engage them in outside hands-on experiences to complement their classroom learning activities.

Their agenda truly showcases the ingenuity of the activities planned for the day, specifically when the children were asked to create their own unique AT&T ad. Today, no product, service, concept, or idea can be successful without marketing savvy behind it.

This exercise provided a two-fold experience:

- Showcases a current successful AT&T marketing campaign that is currently running in the media
- Highlights the field of marketing as a viable career choice.

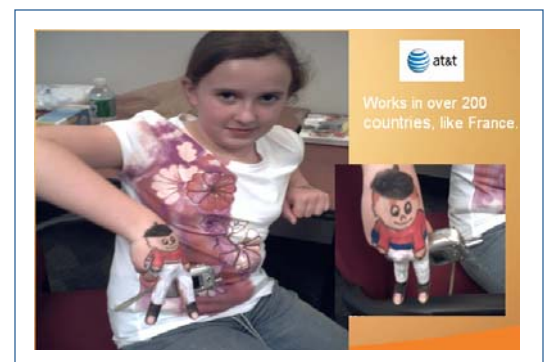
The children were shown current AT&T Wireless ads and asked to think of a country to represent in their own ads. With the help of Alvarez, NY Metro Club Life Member, their creations came to life when she helped the children hand-paint their sketches. Then, one of the children, Sidney Flynn, illustrated her marketing ad depicting AT&T Wireless reaching to France as a French man wearing a beret.



*Actual AT&T
Wireless Ads
shown to children*



*Pioneer Naomi
working with Sydney
(left)*



*Sydney's version of a
marketing ad (right)*

October Madness and the International *Project Connect* Tournament are Back!

TelecomPioneers wants YOU to participate!

Last year, Tennessee Pioneers created and executed *October Madness*, TelecomPioneers' first online *Project Connect* tournament, introducing Pioneers all over to a new approach in using PC in the schools and communities. This award-winning project proved to be a great success in promoting PC and recruiting users!

The success of this project led to the PC-16, TelecomPioneers' first International online PC tournament, with students in 13 states and three provinces invited to participate.

This year TCP is combining the two projects to create two levels of a 2008 International *Project Connect* Tournament. In the first round (still called *October Madness*), students will compete on the state/province level to find one state/provincial winner. The winning participants will advance to the International Tournament to represent their state/province and compete against all other state/provincial winners to find one International PC Tournament champion.

State/Province level:

Six Rounds

9/25, 9/29, 10/2, 10/6, 10/9, 10/17
10/20 (if necessary)

State/Provincial Prizes:

TBD per chapter

National/International level:

Six Rounds

11/4, 11/6, 11/11, 11/13, 11/18, 11/20
11/24 (if necessary)

National/International Prizes:

2 laptops

- 1 for winning student
- 1 for winning entity

3 savings bonds

- \$500 for 1st runner-up
- \$300 for 2nd runner-up
- \$200 for 3rd runner-up

This award-winning project is a great way to market and promote *Project Connect* to schools, extracurricular clubs, community centers, etc. The teachers and the students benefit from PC, and participants get especially excited at the opportunity to compete against other participants from all over the U.S. and Canada!

To view *October Madness*, please visit: www.octobermadness.net for brackets, rules, and general information.

To find out more information and/or to participate, please contact your group coordinator, or:

Kari Biesendorfer, Program Director

Phone: 303-571-9262

Email: kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org

Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator

Phone: 303-571-9250

Email: bwyman@telecompioneers.org



Pioneer Project Updates

Beep Baseball 2008 World Series info

Dates: Sunday, July 27th through Sunday August 3, 2008

Note: Games will begin on Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Hotel:

Houston Marriott® North at Greenspoint
255 North Sam Houston Parkway East
Houston, Texas 77060
Phone: (281) 875-4000

The World Series can also be experienced via blogs and podcasting. PodCasting: A term coined in early 2005; it originally was a combination of the Apple's IPOD and Broadcasting. The term has been modified where now it stands for "Personal On Demand Broadcasting."

For more information on Beep Ball, visit <http://www.beepbaseball.com/>

NOW ANNOUNCING...

TelecomPioneers has started a *Power Up To Read* blog for Pioneers. This is a forum where you can ask questions, find support, and exchange information with other Pioneers about implementation and strategies, as well as support each other.

The blog can be found at <http://www.putrblog.blogspot.com/>

Highlight Your Chapter, Club, or Council!

TelecomPioneers always welcomes articles for the *Projects & Programs Periodical*. This is a great opportunity to share your amazing projects with other Pioneers! Please submit all articles on **Back to School projects** to be considered no later than **July 25, 2008**.

****Anything received later than this date will be considered for the following month, no exceptions!**

Newsletter Contest Results

How it works: There will be a clue for a "code word" or "code phrase" under the **Pioneer Updates** section of the *Pioneer Projects & Programs Periodical*; the word or phrase answer to the clue can be found in an article in the newsletter. After you find the answer, just click on the link to enter your answer by the last day of the month. Correct answers are eligible for the monthly drawing for a \$25 gift card to Amazon.com.

June Newsletter Contest Clue:

What does UDL stand for, and what is its purpose?

June Newsletter Contest Answer:

Universal Design for Learning (UDL), one of the foundations of *Power Up To Read*, is a framework for teaching and learning that provides multiple pathways so that each student can gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning.

June Newsletter Contest Winner:

Congratulations to Patti Durden, AT&T Pioneers Metro Council! Please look for this month's clue under the Pioneer Updates section to enter the contest!

Pioneer Updates

Newsletter Distribution

If you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list to receive the *Programs & Projects Periodical* directly, please e-mail a request to:

Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator
bwyman@telecompioneers.org

Spotlight Your Chapter/Club/Council!

We would like to thank all our Pioneers for their contributions and their efforts to better their communities! We appreciate all of our Pioneers' dedication and passion for the Pioneer mission. TCP wants to hear your stories about Pioneers and all they do! If you would like your chapter (or a fellow Pioneer) to be highlighted in an issue of the *Pioneer Projects & Programs Periodical*, please e-mail us and tell us why your chapter (or your Pioneer nominee) should be in the spotlight!

Bekah Wyman, Program Coordinator
bwyman@telecompioneers.org

July Newsletter Contest Clue:

List two ways to broaden the use of PUTR books in the community.

Submit your answer by July 25th 11:30 pm (Pacific Standard Time):

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ZyyjOMY1KPnva dq5L_2fnl5Q_3d_3d



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info@telecompioneers.org

Resources

Who do I contact if I need IT support?

Contact TCP's helpdesk by going to
www.telecompioneers.helpdeskconnect.com



<http://www.attpioneervolunteers.org/>

General contact address for AT&T Pioneers:
 130 E. Travis, Suite 350
 San Antonio, TX 78205



<http://www.verizonpioneers.org/>



<http://www.qwestpioneers.org/>



<http://newoutlookpioneers.org/>



<http://aliantpioneers.com/>



<http://www.sasktelpioneers.com/>

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