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CONTACT: Marcheta Strunk, 623-930-2822
Public Relations Office

GLENDALE RECEIVES AWARDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

GLENDALE, Ariz. –Two innovative programs – one for after school children and one focused on folk heritage – earned top honors for the city of Glendale at a recent parks and recreation conference held in Tucson.

The Arizona Parks and Recreation Association presented Glendale Parks, Recreation and Library Services staff with its Outstanding Educational Program Award and its Outstanding Community/Neighborhood Special Event Award at its 2011 conference. The winning programs are:

Green Crusaders. This youth environmental education program focuses on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. Glendale’s after-school program participants learn the importance of recycling and take part in arts and crafts that utilize recycled goods such as plastic bottles, old phone books, paper towel rolls and egg cartons. The city partnered with Terracycle, a non-profit recycling business, to make the program a success. The program has also become a fundraiser for the after-school programs by gathering recyclable items and turning them in for recycling.

Glendale Folk and Heritage Festival. This event, held in the midst of the 1800s buildings of the Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area, has grown into a nationally-recognized, two-day celebration of folk music and related history and culture. With over 150 individual performances and 52 workshops throughout the weekend, residents and visitors can choose from a variety of entertainment styles ranging from folk and bluegrass music to cowboy poetry and storytelling.

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City of Glendale
5850 W. Glendale Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85301
(623) 930-2960

PARKS AND RECREATION AWARDS
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“It was a nice validation for the staff that their work is recognized for excellence, but we believe the real winners are our residents who benefit from the programs we create,” said Erik Strunk, Executive Director of Parks, Recreation and Library Services.

For more information about Glendale’s parks and recreation programs, visit www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation.

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