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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)



**(Neb.)-Public Invited To Participate In Poker Run To Help Abused Children**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/08/2013 11:34 AM



(CHADRON)-The Pine Ridge chapter of Guardians of the Children (GOC) will be hosting their 6th annual Fund Raiser Poker Run on Sunday, May 19th. Member Kathy Stokey says the poker run doesn't involve playing cards, poker hands, or any other hassles. Instead, the group is planning the poker run by biking through the Black Hills during Free Park Weekend. For those who don't own a motorcycle or have access to one, individuals can still participate in the fundraiser by using any motorized vehicle.

Registration will take place at Bauerkemper's, 1080 W. Hwy 20 in Chadron, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. the morning of the run. Once registered, riders/drivers are free to hit the road. The run will end at Wilson Park, 8th & Mears St. in Chadron, that evening.

Poker run participants are encouraged to pick up punch cards at registration for \$20 each and then get them punched at three designated checkpoints in the Black Hills anytime during the day before returning to Chadron for prize giveaways and a free BBQ. A special prize will be drawn for riders/drivers who have stopped at all five checkpoints. The drawing will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. at Wilson Park, and riders/drivers must be present to win.

Proceeds from the punch cards will be split in three different ways: 50% will be used as cash giveaway money during the drawing, 25% will be directly donated to the CAPstone Child Advocacy Center to help abused children throughout the Panhandle, and 25% will be used to support services provided by the Pine Ridge chapter of Guardians of the Children.

Stokey encourages riders to dust off their bikes, grab their helmets, and come out for one of the first big rides of the year! The inclement weather date is set for Sunday, June 2nd, and the group wishes to thank Bauerkemper's for all their support.

GOC serves as a public benefit and charitable organization with a 501© (3) status. It exists to educate the public about child abuse and create a safer environment for abused and neglected children. Its mission is to recognize and react to child abuse and to educate the public to do the same, to serve as advocates who provide strength and stability to families in crisis, and to be an answer to the prayers of an abused child or teen for courage, support, and protection. Anyone who shares this same passion for making a difference in a child's life,

and who owns or has access to a motorcycle, can join GOC, with the exception of first passing a background check.

The Pine Ridge chapter of GOC was the first chapter of GOC formed outside of San Antonio, Tex. It's been officially operating since 2006. The group meets the last Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Jim and Kathy Stokey's house. For more information or to join, give the Stokeys a call at 308-432-3282.

CAPstone is a child advocacy center in western Nebraska that serves 11 Panhandle counties, including Dawes, Sheridan, Sioux, and Box Butte counties. CAPstone provides a multidisciplinary approach to investigating, interviewing, and helping children who have been physically and sexually abused.

For more on Guardians of the Children and their Poker Run, tune in to Friday's Community Focus program right here on KCSR at around 4:40 p.m.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail [news@chadrad.com](mailto:news@chadrad.com).)

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