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## **Glendale Homenetmen Ararat Chapter Hosts First-ever Friendship Games for Glendale**

GLENDALE, California – Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter is hosting and organizing its first-ever Friendship Games for the Glendale community. Over 500 young athletes ages 10 & over are invited to take part in this tournament, making these games one of the largest multi-ethnic youth athletic events ever hosted in Glendale.

The games will be held at Glendale High School on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Young members from different non-profit organizations and athletic groups are participating in chess, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, swimming, and tennis.

“The goal of these Friendship Games & Festival is to bring together the many cultures in the Glendale community and foster goodwill, create new friendships in a friendly competitive manner. We want to give the opportunity to the younger generation from different backgrounds to take part in these games and festivities, create unity and celebrate our diversity in a friendly setting,” stated Armond Gorgorian, Executive Director for Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter.

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter anticipates a good turnout for this event and encourages all community based organizations in Glendale to participate. On both nights a festival complete with food, dancing, games, vendors and live entertainment is open to everyone in Glendale regardless if they are participating in the games or not.

(more)

## Friendship Games 2-2-2

Closing ceremonies for the games will be held on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Glendale High School's main gym. Glendale High School's drill team and choir will perform during closing ceremony. We are proud that the City of Glendale, Glendale Unified School District and Glendale News-Press have endorsed and sponsored this event.

"This is an open community event and we invite everyone in Glendale to participate in the festival and closing ceremony even if they don't take part in the tournaments. Families are encouraged to come and watch the different tournaments and also stay for the festival to enjoy the multi-ethnic food, carnival games and live entertainment", Gorgorian added.

A final friendly basketball game with Glendale City Council members and participating non-profit organization directors will take place on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the main gym.

For more information on participation and festival please call (323) 256-2564 or visit [www.Ararat.org](http://www.Ararat.org).

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**The Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts**, referred to as Homenetmen, is a non-profit organization founded in 1918. As a strong believer in the strong mind in a strong body concept, Homenetmen provides the Armenian American youth with moral, physical and social education. In addition, it exposes the youth to the wealth of the Armenian culture and heritage, prepared outstanding and law abiding Armenian American Citizens. **The Glendale Ararat Chapter** is the largest chapter in the United States, with nearly 2,300 members. The most important part of our organization's function is provision of healthy and clean programs for teenagers and young adults through organized and supervised after school and weekend activities in a family oriented environment. They are taught volunteerism, community and cultural values, citizenship, teamwork, receive leadership training, and are kept away from the strong negative influences facing our youth including drugs, gangs, and crime.