



# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation

September 2010

Friends Always / Pals Forever

www.bigtp.org

Letter from the Chief...

It is that time of year again ... time to kick off the YMCA Guide and Princess programs. We have been hard at work this summer getting the schedule ready for your little Princess and/or Guide. Of course we will be starting things off with the traditional Harvest Moon Campout in our usual autumn location. This year's fall campout will again feature the golden nugget hunt with a few twists and turns added. We will also have carnival games in the front field, pumpkin decorating contest, a cook off challenge, and much more.

We will return to the late night at the YMCA, except this year we will feature a Rain Gutter Regatta boat race instead of the pine wood derby cars. This race is a ton of fun for the kids, has much more child participation, and there is almost no construction needed on the boat kits ... just decoration. Unlike the pine wood derby cars, your boat decorating can be a tribal meeting craft, it will not take weeks to complete ... and the best part is ... there is no way for a dad who knows more than you to "beef up" the boat as the fastest boats are the simple kits assembled without modification. It will be fun for all ages.

Santa will be joining us this year for our downtown Naperville caroling and cocoa event in December. January will take us back to Indiana for our Snow Moon camp out. We will be bringing back the chant contest for the girls and a cheer contest for the boys. This event will be at the winter camp out, and will also serve as our evening entertainment. It will be fun for everyone. (continued on page 3)...

## Wear Your Vest to School Day



To help kick off the 2010-2011 season we are asking the children to wear their vests on **Friday, September 24th**. We want our kids to share their excitement about the program with their friends and we hope the vests will stir interest and conversation about the program. There is nothing better than word of mouth from the kids in our program to their peers to recruit new members. To receive stickers to give to potential guides and princesses, please contact Russell Clarke at 630-585-2207 for more details.

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# Harvest Moon Campout

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

White Oak Campground in Utica, IL

**QUESTS ARE FREE!!**

**So bring your friends and neighbors!**

The Harvest Moon Campout has a rich history with this YMCA's Guides and Princesses Program. Join us on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for this event. Events will include b.b. gun shooting, carnival games, pumpkin decorating, arts and crafts, late night critter hunt, an induction ceremony and much more!!

The Registration for this event is included on page 5 of this issue, but make sure to register for the ANNUAL PROGRAM found on page 6 before you register for the campout.

If you campout on Friday, you must come after 5, and pay the campground for the evening.

## CAMP CHECKLIST

- Tent, poles, ropes, stakes, hammer
- Tarp for under the tent
- Sleeping bags and blankets
- Pillows
- Air mattresses/pads
- Lantern
- Stove (check with other dads)
- Weber Grill
- Firewood can only be purchased in Utica
- Matches
- Flashlights
- First Aid Kit
- Cooking Utensils
- Plates, cups, glasses, utensils, water jug
- Hand sanitizer
- Food, and don't forget hot chocolate!

- Lawn Chairs
- Cooler
- Toiletries: soap, tooth brush and paste, wash cloth, towels, comb
- Warm clothes, and bring extras!
- EXTRA SOCKS AND SHOES
- Walking shoes and boots
- Sun block
- Insect repellent
- Extra toilet paper, just in case!
- Recreation items (football, gloves, etc.)
- Tribal Banner
- Torch (check [www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org) for instructions)
- Registration forms and payments if you haven't registered already

### Directions

From Naperville, take your preferred route to southbound I55 (toward St. Louis); exit onto westbound I80 (toward Iowa); exit I80 on route 178 and turn left (to Utica); drive through downtown Utica (you'll make a zig-zag at the grain elevators to get through downtown); continue on 178 across the bridge; just over the bridge you'll pass Starved Rock State Park on the left, and then see the sign for White Oak on the right.



[www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org)

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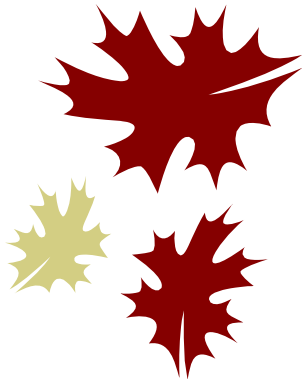
Details on this event at our longhouse meetings so make sure you have a representative from your tribe at every monthly longhouse. February will bring the Daddy Daughter dance and Mother Son dance too. The theme for this year's dances will be Formal. This means suits and ties with pretty dresses, or even black tie for the adventurous. There will be a red carpet reception when you arrive, so look your best! March and April events will be determined at our longhouse meetings, so make sure you have a representative at every meeting. It does not have to be the same person every month, anyone from your tribe can represent you at these meetings. In May we will cap the year with our Planting Moon camp out in our usual spring location. Details on this camp out are still in the works, but it will be bigger and better than ever.

This is my second term as Chief of the Big Teepee Federation, and my 10th year overall in the program. It is also, sadly, my final year in the program too. I assure you all that we will have a fantastic season and that the chief to follow in my footsteps will be ready to produce a fantastic year to follow me. The YMCA has supplied us with Chief Russell (we need to find him a good native name) and our program could not be in better hands. One of our YMCA Chief's best projects is the web site. Check out [www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org) often for updated information on the season.

I look forward to seeing you all at the "Meet the Chiefs" tents this year ... I will have some great short native American stories to tell the kids this camp out.

Stay safe, and stay strong,

Chief Big Bear  
of the Big Teepee Federation



## First Longhouse Meeting

We would like tribes to send a representative (preferably the new Chief) to an early Longhouse meeting this summer to discuss the Fall Campout, recruiting ideas, and the Late Night at the YMCA. Please join us and have a say in the program this year!

Thursday, October 7

7:00 PM

Fry YMCA Family Center

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## Just for Chiefs

New Chiefs! Check out the "Just for Chiefs" page on [www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org). This new page will have plenty of resources for new chiefs, and outline all of your new responsibilities.

To start with, go to the page right away and register your tribe, if you haven't done so already. I will use that information to place new members with you!

If you have any suggestions or additions to the page don't hesitate to contact Russell at [rclarke@heritageymca.org](mailto:rclarke@heritageymca.org)

## Labor Day Parade

The Labor Day Parade was a great success! Nearly 70 people marched around the YMCA bus and handed out candy and fliers.

The fliers, which were handed directly to mothers in the crowd were invitations to the **New Member Information Night**, on September 9<sup>th</sup>. They Listed the "top ten reasons why every mother should sign their husband up for the Y Guides and Princesses Programs."

Thank you for all who attended, and for all those who helped promote this great program!

## The Y Trailblazers Program

This program has been reinvented! Sign up using the same registration sheet as Y Guides or Princesses and you will have access to all of the great events all year. Moreover, Trailblazers will have several Trailblazer ONLY events each year.

This leadership program provides past Y Guide and Princesses with the opportunity to still come to each event, with one main difference. When you're a Trailblazer, you have the chance to set up for the famous critter hunt at the Fall Campout, lead crafts and games at the Late Night, and judge the S'more cook-off at the Spring Campout, and much more!

Contact Russell at [rclarke@heritageymca.org](mailto:rclarke@heritageymca.org) for more details.





## BIG TEEPEE FEDERATION PARENT/CHILD EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



The YMCA accepts its responsibility to create an environment where models of acceptable behavior are found, and prohibits its staff, volunteers, and participants from consuming alcohol at YMCA events. The alcohol policy will be enforced at each event. Please don't risk participation in future events!

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe Chief's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Participant? Yes  No

EVENT	CODE	DEADLINE	COST	NUMBER ATTENDING	TOTAL (\$)
Fall Campout			\$38 per father/child \$14 per additional child		
			prices include overnight stay, activities, crafts, and patches		
<b>STRONG KIDS PATCH</b>	Help the YMCA never turn anyone away due to an inability to pay. <b>\$10 - Voluntary Donation</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>					

Payment Type: Master  Visa  Debit card  Discover  Draft  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Holder name \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Form and Waiver of Liability**

Participant or guardian assumes all risks of injury arising out of his or her presence on or about the premises or at another location, use or intended use of equipment and facilities, or his or her participation in the activities of the Heritage YMCA Group, an Illinois chartered not for profit corporation and does hereby for himself, herself, heirs, executors and administrators waive, release, and agree to hold free from all claims for damages the Heritage YMCA Group, and its respective officers, directors, Trustees, Board of Directors, members, employees, or agents. I hereby allow the YMCA to take pictures (still or video) of my self and/or my children and grant permission for these images to be used in YMCA publications, presentations, publicity, or promotions. I have answered all above questions accurately, declare myself/family to be physically sound, having medical approval to engage in YMCA activities, have read the information above agreeing for myself and as a chosen representative for my family to the policies and procedures of the Heritage YMCA Group.

**Employee Use:**  
 Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Parent or Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## PARENT/CHILD REGISTRATION FORM 2010/2011 Guide, Princess and Trailblazer



Session: **09SEP**       **2960 Guides** (father/son, grades K-4)       **2970 Princesses** (father/daughter, grades K-4)       **2980 Trailblazers** (father/child, grades 5 and up)

<b>Cost: (Guides/Princesses – grades k-4)</b>		
Community Participants	\$70. per father/child	\$40. each additional child
YMCA Member Discount	\$35. per father/child	\$20. each additional child
<b>Cost: (Trailblazers – grades 5 and up)</b>		
Community Participants	\$45. per father/child	\$20. each additional child
YMCA Member Discount	\$25. per father/child	\$15. each additional child
Weekend events will be a separate charge. Please make checks payable to: Heritage YMCA Group		

Please list all children that will be participating.  
Please fill out with complete information to better enable us to inform you on program updates.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (Fall of 2010): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (Fall of 2010): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (Fall of 2010): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip : \_\_\_\_\_ Subdivision: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>RETURNING PARTICIPANTS</b>	
Tribe Name: _____	Year child joined: _____
Nation: _____	Tribe Chief: _____

### NEW PARTICIPANTS

1. Is there a specific tribe or other children with whom you wish to join?      Yes      No

If yes, please list names: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not specify, the YMCA and a group of volunteer dads will carefully assign you to a tribe in your age bracket, and as close as possible to your home.

2. How did you learn about this program? \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like a second copy of the monthly newsletter mailed to a separate address, please list that address here: _____
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**For questions, e-mail [rclarke@heritageymca.org](mailto:rclarke@heritageymca.org) or call Russell Clarke at 630.585.2207.**

Payment Type: Master \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Debit card \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Draft \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Holder name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Big Teepee Federation Calendar 2010-2011

## August

19<sup>th</sup>- First Longhouse

## September

6<sup>th</sup>- Labor Day Parade, meet at Naperville Central at 9:45 AM

9<sup>th</sup>- New Member Information Night, bring your tribal banner and recruit some new members into your tribe!

24<sup>th</sup>- Wear your vest to school day

## October

2<sup>nd</sup>- Harvest Moon Campout, White Oak Campground in Utica Illinois, make sure to register ahead of time!

7<sup>th</sup>- Longhouse Meeting, Fry Family YMCA, 7 PM

## November

4<sup>th</sup>- Longhouse Meeting, Fry Family YMCA, 7 PM

13<sup>th</sup>- Late Night at the YMCA, Fry Family YMCA, 8:30 to 11:00, don't forget your swimsuit!

## December

2<sup>nd</sup>- Longhouse Meeting, Fry Family YMCA, 7 PM

11<sup>th</sup>- Caroling and Crafts, meet at the Kroehler Family YMCA at 9:30 AM, songbooks, crafts, and cocoa will be provided.

## January

6<sup>th</sup>- Longhouse Meeting, Fry Family YMCA, 7 PM

7<sup>th</sup>- Wear your vest to school day

15<sup>th</sup>- Snow Moon Campout, Camp Tecumseh, Brookston Indiana

30<sup>th</sup>- Winter Carnival, TBD

## February

3<sup>rd</sup>- Longhouse Meeting, Fry Family YMCA, 7 PM

5<sup>th</sup>- Daddy Daughter Dance, stay tuned for details

26<sup>th</sup>- Mother Son Dance, stay tuned for details

## March

3<sup>rd</sup>- Longhouse Meeting, Fry Family YMCA, 7 PM

19<sup>th</sup>- Rainboat Regatta, Fry Family YMCA, 7:30-9:30

Check [www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org) for the rest of the schedule!

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Y-Guides and Princess  
Heritage YMCA Group  
31 W290 Schoger Dr.  
Naperville, IL 60564

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Caring

Honesty

Respect

Responsibility

## The YMCA Four Core Values

### Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life for families through programs reflecting Christian principles to build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.