



Heritage YMCA Group

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation
Y Guides & Princesses



April 2007

Friends Always / Pals Forever

www.bigtp.org

Planting Moon Campout

Start looking for those tents and coffee can torches...the Spring Campout is around the corner. We have lots of exciting activities and promotions planned. Here are just a few:

Honor Tribes - Tribes receiving the coveted Honor Tribe Patch will be given special recognition at the bon fire ceremony (see page 2).

Obstacle Course - The inflatable obstacle course will be available to burn some energy out of those kids from about noon to 4 PM.

Host Tribes - Be an ambassador of the program. Open your hearts and campsites to guests for the day and show them how wonderful the program really is. (see page 5).

Graduations - There will be a special recognition at the bon fire for kids graduating this year.

Hopefully you will have a special ceremony at your tribal campfire for your graduates as well. Don't forget to order your graduation medallion or photo plaque to present to your child. Go to:

http://www.y-indianguides.com/pfm_a_guide_medal.html

Contact us for graduation ceremony ideas.

Food Drive - As in past years, we will be collecting food donations at the entrance to the campground to donate to the Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Naperville. Please bring canned or dry foods with you for this good cause and drop off as you enter or leave the camp out. We understand that diapers and baby food are especially desirable.

See "Spring Campout" Page 2

Mom's Corner

As you know we are offering a great deal to all your friends and neighbors who might like to join the Y Guides and Princesses program..... **THEY CAN COME FOR FREE** to our Spring Campout!

At the same time we have opened our hearts and invited folks to attend the campout that may not (yet) have a friend in the program. It would be wonderful if we could line up these solitary visitors with tribes that have kids from the same schools. To that end we are looking for volunteer "Host Tribes". This simply means letting the new Dad and kid(s) hang with the Host Tribe during the campout.

Talk to your Hubby and let him how rewarding it might be to have his tribe open its arms to a visiting father and child; two bonded souls who simply want to spend some quality time together...but not alone.

All your big-hearted man has to do is contact Shane Loy to volunteer his tribe to be a Host Tribe. See page 5 for more details.

Cantigny Family Picnic

April 15 - Cantigny Park, Wheaton

Longhouse Meeting

May 3, 8:00 PM Downtown YMCA

Planting Moon Campout

May 19 - 20

Stronghold Campground, Oregon IL

Cantigny Family Picnic

Bring your picnic baskets, grills, and tribal banners to the **Cantigny Family Picnic** on April 15 from 12 to 4PM at Cantigny Park in Wheaton. Forget about your taxes and bring the whole family to this event. There is plenty of room for field games at the park, lots of areas to explore and of course there are tanks, tanks, and more tanks to climb in front of the First Division Army Museum.

The Museum is a world class facility with a wide variety of exhibits ranging from life-size dioramas of wars past in the main exhibit hall to the military pieces found in the front park.

(Hint - Check out the glass floor in the Visitor's Center) If you have never been to this park before, come and experience one of Illinois' top recreational and tourist attractions.

There is no registration for this event, just show up. There is an \$8 parking / entrance fee at the gate per vehicle.

Honor Tribes

The Federation Council would like to recognize the following Tribes for earning the coveted Honor Tribe Patch:

Onondaga Princesses
Chippewa Co-ed
Onondaga Guides

Sioux Guides
Hunkpapa Princesses
Yakama Guides

Five tribes are within 1 or 2 points of the goal!

These tribes earned credit for volunteering to help with program events, contributing to the community, or helping improve the quality or visibility of the program. Your tribe may have already earned an Honor Patch! For more details on Honor Tribes see www.bigtp.org. If your tribe provides a community service, tell us about it and we may publish the details in the Smoke Signals.

Honor tribe will be given special recognition at the spring campout bonfire assembly.

If your tribe is an Honor Tribe, be sure to pick up your Honor Tribe Patch as you enter the campground.

Spring Campout (from page 1)

Critter Hunt - The ever popular critter hunt will be expanded this year to larger areas. Make sure you bring a bright flashlight for each Critter Hunter.

Hint from an old timer; for the critter-hunt-challenged-child, bring a handful of critters from home, put 'em in your pocket, and strategically throw them on the ground for your child to find during the later stages of the hunt to avoid the dreaded and sometimes tearful critter hunt "shut out". Also prearrange a spot you will meet your child should you be separated during the hunt.

Photographer - We have arranged to have a photographer at the campsite to take pictures of your tribe or of you and your child at a very modest cost.

Bring a Guest / Win a Tee Pee - If you bring a guest to the campout, be sure to fill out a raffle form upon entry to the campsite. Two very nice replica tee pees will be awarded as a raffle prize at the bon fire.

Area Attractions: Oregon boasts three state parks and a state forest all within a ten-minute drive of its borders. These include White Pines Forest State Park, Castle Rock State Park, with trails to the "top of the rocks;" Lowden-Miller State Park, "The Eternal Indian," who is known throughout the Midwest as Chief Blackhawk; and Lowden-Miller State Forest, 2,225 acres offering hiking, backpacking, and birding. See (www.oregonil.com/attractions-parks.html). Canoeing is available at TJ's Canoe Rental @ 815-732-4516; see (www.tjscanoerental.com). Horseback riding is also available in the area.

No Alcohol - Alcohol in any form is strictly forbidden at the campgrounds (and all Y events for that matter). This will be strictly enforced. DO NOT jeopardize your membership in the program or risk losing the campsite for the entire Y Guide / Princess program over a few drinks.

Looking For a Few Good Men

Are you satisfied with the Y Guide & Princess program? Do have ideas on how to improve the program? Can you see yourself in a leadership role with this program?

Several positions on the Federation Council will be open next year and we are now taking nominations to fill those posts. We would like you to consider joining us.

As you know, this is an all volunteer program. The quality time you have spent with your child has been a rich reward of membership. Perhaps it is now time to give back to the program to keep it viable for future fathers, sons, and daughters.

If you would like to help chart the future course of the Y Guide / Princess program contact anyone on the Federation Council (page 4) or simply attend the next Longhouse meeting on May 3rd.

Tribal Chief's Patch

Calling all Chiefs! We recognize getting your unruly tribe organized this season has been at times "challenging"; kind of like herding cats.

Fortunately your hard work will finally pay off with the awarding of a special **Chief's Patch** for you and a "**My Dad is Chief**" patch for your child. This special award will be presented to you or your representative at the May Longhouse meeting (May 3 at 8PM at the Downtown YMCA). These patches will only be distributed one time, at this meeting, so we encourage you to join us.

At this final Longhouse meeting of the season, we will be discussing & settling next year's events. So if you would like to participate in establishing our activities for next year or provide any input on how to improve the program please stop by. We appreciate your efforts this season in helping to make wonderful memories for your child, and your tribe.

Support YMCA Strong Kids

The Y Guides and Princesses program is supporting the YMCA's **Annual Strong Kids Campaign** Fundraiser this year. Through your support of the Strong Kids Campaign, the YMCA insures that no one will be turned away from a YMCA membership or program due to the inability to pay. This year over \$400,000 will be provided to kids and families to help improve their quality of life and help them realize their full potential through YMCA programs, like the Y Guides and Princesses!

For 2007, a Strong Kids Patch for your vests is available for a donation of \$10. This money will go 100% to provide fee assistance to those less fortunate so they too can benefit and grow by participating in YMCA programs. Uncle Sam supports your efforts by making your contribution tax deductible.

For those tribes that participate, Honor Points will be awarded and outstanding contributors will be published in the **Smoke Signals**. The *GOAL* is 200 patches or \$2,000. Please help us help build strong kids, strong families, and a stronger community!

You can simply purchase a patch as you check in at the Spring Campout or use the registration form at the back of this newsletter to order. Patches ordered this way will be distributed when you check in or if you cannot make the Spring Campout, the patch will be mailed to you.

Winter Campout Tribal Property

If your tribe earned an award at the Snow Moon (Winter) Campout for tribal property, please let us know and we will get you a proper ribbon.

YMCA Mission

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

Safe 'n Sound • Heritage YMCA Group
P.O. Box 838. • Naperville, IL 60566
(630) 355-2559

Tribal Tips

The Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures

A wonderful opportunity for parents and children of your tribe to learn about Native American culture is to set up a guided tour of the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures at Aurora University. The Chippewa Tribe visited this facility in February and found it to be a fun and enlightening experience.

Jim Fillar - "Yellow Fang" of the Chippewa

The Schingoethe Center serves both as the University's museum of Native American culture and as a setting for research and teaching related to the study of cultural artifacts and related texts. The Center serves as an important resource for area schools and colleges, researchers, Native American groups, and the general public.

During the Chippewa's visit, a guide provided an age appropriate tour of the facility to our K-1st graders. The length of the tour will be determined by you; we found about an hour to be sufficient. The tour included descriptions of the many displays, hands on displays, actually building a wigwam, and viewing an excellent movie re-enacting Native American life in the Midwest 200+ years ago.

Additionally, The Schingoethe Center is a source for a wide variety of educational resources that may be borrowed for your tribal meetings including "Discovery Boxes," audio-visual resources, and traveling exhibits.

Discovery Boxes are portable containers which include educational artifacts, background material and suggested activities on a topic of Native American culture. Discovery Boxes may be checked out for a two week period.

Educational Videos and Audio-Visual Material: The Schingoethe Center maintains an extensive school film lending library. Because most of the videos are single copies, they restrict their borrowing to schools and other educational groups. There is a modest handling charge per video.

To schedule a tour, inquire about Discovery Boxes or Audio-Visual material, contact the Associate Director at 630-844-7844. A modest donation of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12 is requested. Your admission donations help the Center to provide the services, exhibits, and programs to the larger community.

You can learn much more about this wonderful facility right here in our own backyard by visiting their website at: <http://www.aurora.edu/museum/>

2006 - 2007 Federation Council

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Scout	Chris Bachman	c.bachmann@motorola.com	630-926-6627
Sand Painter	Open		
Medicine Man	Open		
Recruiting Task Force	Charlie Kinne	ckinne@fitcheven.com	312-629-7940
Native American Agent	Shane Loy	sloy@heritageymca.org	630-355-2559

Hosting Tribes at the Spring Campout

This is an "instruction sheet" for tribes that are hosting guests at the Spring Campout (see page 1). On page 6, you'll see the "instruction sheet" for guests. This way, each will know what the other has been told, and you'll have a better idea of what to expect.

Tribes that have volunteered to date to be Host tribes and the schools they are affiliated with are:

Apache (C) ; Builta, Graham	Cherokee - Maplebrook	Zuni (G); Patterson
Shasta (P) ; Clow, Patterson	Lakota (G); Patterson	
Iowa (G); Ellsworth, St. Peter & Paul	Seneca (P); Elmwood	Aztec;
Yakima (P) ; Highlands	Sioux (G); Scott	
Yakama (G); Fox Chase, Prairie Point, all Oswego	Onondaga (P); Steeple Run, all Batavia	Omaha (P); Mill, Prairie, Hillside, Ellsworth
Chippewa (C) ; Meadow Glens, Kingsley, Ranch View	Ottawa (P); White Eagle	

As you can see, there are a lot of schools not yet represented by a Host Tribe. If your tribe is willing to open its arms to a visiting Dad and kid or two who simply desire to spend some quality time together at our campout, please contact Shane Loy.

First, we've asked guests to bring their own tent, sleeping bags, and food, as well as the usual list of stuff. We've asked the dads to pitch in and help with meals, and to contact the chief to see what, if any, equipment is needed and how they can fit in. Please include the help of the dads and kids wherever you can so they feel as though they are pulling their weight (and also to lessen your burden).

However, it's possible some of the guests won't get the instructions, and will be more dependent on you than these instructions provide. Please be prepared with extra food, cooking capacity and patience. You need not provide sleeping accommodations, though.

For the Chief: Expect that you will be contacted by guests asking what they can bring, etc. Please respond to their calls. If they are ignored, they will be unlikely to participate. This is our recruiting tool. Also, at some point during the day, gather your tribe around and be sure introductions are made - dad-to-dad and kid-to-kid.

For the Dads: Explain to your kids that there may be strangers in your midst, and that their job is to welcome the new kids and show them how fun the program is. Work with your chief to have extra capacity, as noted above.

For the Kids: **Make new friends, and show the guests how much fun this is!**

Generally, that is it. Include the guests as much as you can. If your cooking routine is down pat and you don't need help with that, suggest snacks, drinks, and firewood as things the new people can bring.

Guests at the Spring Campout

This is an "instruction sheet" for guests at the Spring Campout. On page 5, you'll see the "instruction sheet" for the hosting tribes. This way, each will know what the other has been told, and you'll have a better idea of what to expect.

First, bring your own tent, sleeping bags, and food, as well as the usual list of stuff (see below). Dads should pitch in and help with meals (which includes doing dishes); kids can help with cleanup and especially litter control.

Contact the tribe's chief to see what, if any, equipment is needed and how you can fit in. While some tribes may have difficulty tasking you with "critical" assignments (for fear you'll change your mind about coming), there are plenty of things you can do to help out.

If you've never camped before, relax. Many of the guys joining the program are newbies at camping the first time out. We've seen many new tent boxes at every campout; we've seen tents missing the rain fly at night, only to see it reappear the next morning stuck to the bottom of the tent. You can't surprise us.

The following is a list of what to bring. Prepare for cold nights; read the forecast.

An all inclusive list of things to bring follows (absolutely essential items are bolded):

- **Tent & Tarp**- Don't forget the poles, ropes, stakes, and a hammer (to drive in the stakes)
- **Sleeping bag** and/or blankets (it could be cool)
- Recreational Items - Football, soccer ball, softball, mitts
- Stove and/or Grill
- Plates, cups, glasses, silverware
- Warm clothes (bring plenty - layers work best - temperature varies throughout day)
- Firewood and kindling (group effort)
- Food (remember the can opener, if needed) & Drinks (pop, Kool-aid, water)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- **Air mattresses or foam pads & pillows**
- **A Chair** for each person (you'll be glad you brought them)
- **2 Flashlights** (check those batteries for the critter hunt!)
- Matches/Lighter
- Cooking utensils (don't forget the coffeepot)
- Bug spray
- First Aid Kit
- Personal items
- Lantern

If your tent is new, set it up once at home for practice and to be sure it's all there.

There is no alcohol allowed at the campsite.

Most important instruction: Have Fun!

Call Shane Loy 630.355.2559 with any questions

Heritage YMCA Big Teepee Federation Program Registration Form

Planting Moon Campout – May 19 & 20 – Stronghold Campground, Oregon IL Strong Kid's Patches

This registration and applicable fees can be returned to the Kroehler Family YMCA (34 S. Washington St.), Field House (31W290 Schoger Dr) or the Fry Family YMCA (2120 W. 95th Street) all in Naperville.

You can fax this completed form to (630) 585-5560, Attn: Shane Loy

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. This policy will be enforced.

Father/Child Name: _____ Children's age(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ e-mail: _____ Tribe: _____

Event	Code	# Attending	Cost	Total (\$)
Planting Moon Campout – May 19 & 20	07Apr 2990		\$16 per person	
Strong Kids Patches (see page 3)			\$10 per patch	

Form of Payment: Cash [] Check [] Credit Card [] Total Paid: _____

Visa - MC -Discover: Charge #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Participants 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 damaged the Heritage YMCA Group, and its representative officers, directors, Trustees, Board of Directors, members, employees, or agents. I hereby allow the YMCA to take pictures (still or video) of myself 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.

Parent / Guardian Signature (18 or older)

Employee Use:

Today's Date: _____

Employee Initials: _____

Center: _____