

Heritage YMCA Group

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation
Y Guides & Princesses



August 2007

Friends Always / Pals Forever

www.bigtp.org

Wear Your Vest to School Day

As part of our "awareness" campaign this year we would like all of our princesses and braves to wear their vests to school before the major federation events. To kick off the 2007-2008 season we are asking the kids to wear their vests to school on **Friday, August 31st**. We want our kids to share their excitement about the program with their friends and we hope the vests will stir interest and conversation. We think there is nothing better than word of mouth from the kids in our program to their peers to recruit new members.

The timing is also important; the end of August is right before our new member nights beginning in September. We are printing up "stickers" for the kids to handout to their friends. The stickers have program contact information that we hope gets to their parents.

New Member / Info Nights

This year we want to kickoff the program right so we are hosting three program new member / information nights for new and existing members. Members of the Federation Council and the YMCA will be there to answer all your questions, distribute information, and take suggestions. We will have newly revised program handbooks, program brochures, program schedules, signup sheets, and other useful information so please stop in and see us. The schedule for the information nights is shown on the right. Locations are:

- Oswego YMCA - Mason Square Shopping Center on Douglas Road
- Fry YMCA - 95th St. just West of Book Rd
- Kroehler YMCA - Downtown Naperville on Washington St.

Chris Bachmann - Prairie Nation Chief
Night Hawk of the Yakama

Mom's Corner

Well Moms, the little ones have started school and life just isn't the same. Somehow, you'll have to figure out what to do with all the extra free time.

Here's a suggestion; bring your friends who have young kids to our new member nights. They will get a chance to see what an awesome program we have and will be forever grateful to you for recommending it.

Speaking of school, help your child out with our **"Wear Your Vest to School Day"** on August 31. When their friends see your child's cool vest and all the patches representing the great events they participated in, their friend(s) might want to join the fun; we have lots of that to share.

Lastly, we have many domestically challenged Dads in our midst. See the article on p.7 to help keep that dangerous hot glue gun out of his hands. JF

Upcoming Events

Wear Your Vest to School Day!

Fri, Aug 31 - All Schools

New Member/Information Nights

Thur, Sept 6th 7:30-9 PM - Oswego YMCA

Sat, Sept 8th 1-3 PM - Fry YMCA

Tues, Sept 11th 7-9 PM- Kroehler YMCA

Longhouse Meeting

Thur, Sept 13th - Kroehler Family YMCA

Harvest Pow Wow

Sept 29-30 - Naper Settlement

Are you a Tribal Chief?

If so, please call or email your Nation Chief (see below & p.6) to introduce yourself and help get the 2007-2008 Y-Guides & Princesses season off to a great start.

This summer, the Federation Council met every month and worked on different ways to improve the program. The Council plans to work close with the Tribal Chiefs to ensure that we have a fun and successful season for all of our members.

Please plan on attending the September 13 Longhouse meeting to get up to speed on some of the plans for this season and the specific roles for the Tribal Chiefs.

Carmen Pino - Plains Nation Chief
Silver Hawk of the Chippewa

We're BACK !!!!

For the first time in several years, the Y-Guides and Princesses will be marching in the Labor Day parade.

Wear your vests. For those of you who've never marched, this can be a lot of fun, even if it rains. Let's get together and show the dads and kids of Naperville that the Y-Guides & Princesses is as strong and vibrant as always. If you are going to be out of town, have a great time. If you are in town, come and march with your son or daughter. My older kids still talk about their times in the parade. Please e-mail your chief your plans on attending; Chiefs - forward your counts to Shane Loy and me (p.6). We'd like to know if we're looking at 80 or 800 marchers. See you at the parade.

For more detailed parade information, see www.bigtp.org

Drew Bruozis - Scout
Hunting Fox of the Omaha

Y - Guides and Princesses Nation Map

Prairie Nation

Chief - Chris Bachmann

Chickasaw (P)
Choctaw (P)
Kaskaskia (P)
Omaha (P)
Onondaga (P)
Powhatan (P)
Seneca (C)
Shawnee (P)

Desert Nation

Chief - Tom Schrey

Anasazi (P)
Apache (P)
Aztec (P)
Cherokee (P)
Havasupai (P)
Hopi (C)
Inuit (P)
Shasta (P)
Sioux (P)
Tonkawa (P)
Zuni (P)

Mesa Nation

Chief - Brian Shapley

Hunk Pa Pa (P)
Illinois (P)
Mojave (P)
Ottawa (P)
Potawatomi (P)
Teton (P)
Ute (P)
Seminole (P)
Yakima (P)

Plains Nation

Chief - Carmen Pino

Algonquin (G)
Blackfoot (G)
Chickasaw (G)
Chippewa (C)
Coyote (G)
Ho-Chunk (G)
Iowa (G)
Miami (G)
Seneca (G)

Forest Nation

Chief - Marc Cooperman

Cherokee (G)
Choctaw (G)
Dakota (G)
Delaware (C)
Illini (G)
Seminoles (G)
Shawnee (G)
Onondaga (G)
Yakama (G)

Lake Nation

Chief - Steve Mallin

Apache (G)
Blackhawk (G)
Kickapoo (G)
Lakota (G)
Mohican (G)
Potawatomi (G)
Sioux (G)
Ute (G)
Zuni (G)

(P) - Princesses, (G) - Guides, (C) - Co ed

Gentlemen...Start Your Campfires!

The 2007-2008 Y-Guides & Princess season is about to begin. Not only do we have many fun filled, action packed events planned for the upcoming season (see next page) but we hope to make them even better than before....with your help.

The Federation Council has established three goals for this year to strengthen the program.

1. **Recruit New Members** - The benefits of a larger membership are many. We'd love to see more kids share our fun and see more fathers spend quality time with their kids. There is great satisfaction in seeing campgrounds loaded with lots of kids, some getting a chance to camp out for perhaps the first time. Huge bonfire crowds make the "wow" factor even better. And, of course, we can maintain & improve quality events due to the better funding that comes with increased enrollment, such as the climbing walls at the campouts and obstacle courses at the Late Nights. The Recruitment Task force will be leading this effort (see page 3) and three new member / information nights will be held in Sept.

2. **Increased Participation from Individual Tribes at Events** - The Y Guide & Princess program is somewhat unique. We offer a menu of Federation-wide events for the tribes or members to choose from based on their tastes or schedules; and tribes select their own members and plan their own events to fit their needs. There are no requirements to be met nor is there pressure to perform.

However, if more tribes would participate more actively in our major vents, we can have improved activities; thereby increasing the enjoyment for everyone. "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot". We will be working through the Nation Chiefs on this effort and will be asking all tribes to participate in a significant way at a major event. To aid in this effort we are characterizing tribal attendance at the Longhouse meetings as mandatory. As a change, our Longhouse meetings will be held once every two months vs. every month to ease the burden of attending; but a special meeting with your Nation Chief will be held early in the season to cover this topic.

3. **Improve Awareness of the Native American Experience** - The Y Guides & Princess program has a Native American theme. Not too many years ago this theme was at risk in order to be more politically correct. We don't need to worry about being politically correct; we just need to do what's right. The most important thing we can do to earn and continue using this theme is to promote understanding of the Native American experience.

By meeting these objectives, we will have a better program not just for our current membership but for future generations as well.

Jim Fillar - Assistant Federation Chief
Yellow Fang of the Chippewa

Strong Kids

For the 2006 - 2007 season, the Y-Guides and Princess program raised \$400 to help needy kids and families. This money was raised by tribes and members purchasing the Strong Kids patch for \$10. All money collected will go towards helping the YMCA never turn down someone for any program or membership, due to the inability to pay. We will continue supporting Strong Kids for the upcoming season with a goal of contributing \$1,000. We will continue to sell the tax deductible patches at each event. Please continue to support this worthy cause through purchases of the Strong Kids patches. If your entire tribe purchases patches, let us know, we'll publish your good deed here. SL

2007 - 2008 Schedule of Events

Fri, Aug 31	Wear Your Vest to School Day!		
Mon, Sept 3	Labor Day Parade	see www.bigtp.org	see www.bigtp.org
Thur, Sept 6th	Information Night	7:30pm	Oswego Family YMCA
Sat, Sept 8th	Information Night	1:00pm	Fry Family YMCA
Tues, Sept 11th	Information Night	7:00pm	Kroehler Family YMCA
Thur, Sept 13th	Longhouse Meeting	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Kroehler Family YMCA
Sept 29-30	Harvest Pow Wow	TBD	Naperville
Sat-Sun, Oct 6-7	Harvest Moon Campout	Lake, Forest, and Prairie Nations	White Oak Campground Utica, IL
Sat-Sun, Oct 13-14	Harvest Moon Campout	Desert, Mesa, and Plains Nations	White Oak Campground Utica, IL
Thur, Nov 1	Longhouse Meeting	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Kroehler Family YMCA
Sat, Nov 10th	Guides Late Night	8:00pm-11:00pm	Fry Family YMCA
Sat, Nov 17th	Princess Late Night	8:00pm-11:00pm	Fry Family YMCA
Sat, Dec 15th	Water Park		Location(TBD)
Thur, Jan 3	Longhouse Meeting	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Kroehler Family YMCA
Tues, Jan 8	Wear Your Vest to School Day!		
Sat-Sun, Jan 12-13	Snow Moon Campout		Camp Tecumseh YMCA Brookston, IN
Sat, Feb 9th	Rock Climbing, Pinewood Derby, Late Night	8:30pm-10:30pm	Field House Family YMCA
Sat, Feb 16th	Daddy Daughter Dance	7:00pm-9:00pm	Washington Junior High
Thur, Mar 6	Longhouse Meeting	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Kroehler Family YMCA
March TBD	Museum Overnight	TBD	TBD
Sat, Apr 19th	Movie Night	TBD	IMAX or Field House
Thur, May 1	Longhouse Meeting	8:00 - 9:00 PM	Kroehler Family YMCA
Thur, May 1	Wear Your Vest to School Day!		
Sat-Sun, May 17-19	Planting Moon Campout	All Nations	Stronghold Campground, Oregon, IL

Looking For a Few Good Men

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

As you know, the Y-Guides & Princess program is run by volunteers. Several positions on the Federation Council will be open this year and we would like you to consider joining us.

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 Guides & Princess program talk to us at the Longhouse meetings, information nights or contact anyone on the Federation Council (p.6).

The Recruiting Task Force

The Federation Council would like to thank Charlie Kinne "SASQUATCH OF THE ONONDAGA," for all of his hard work as last year's chair of the taskforce. We accomplished many great things with the climax of 30 quest members attending our spring campout as part of our recruitment push (most of which plan to join).

I have been asked by the Federation Council to chair the task force this year. One of my tasks as chair is to accomplish enough this year that the taskforce can be disbanded and its functions can be merged back into the federation council, most likely with the "Scout" role.

This year the taskforce will focus on an "awareness campaign." We think we can do a better job of advertising the program than we have in the past.

We have many great ideas to increase the "awareness" or "get the word out" of the program.

- First we would like to have the kids wear their vest to school before any big federation event just like the boy and girl scouts do. No better word of mouth than with a kid. For our first attempt at this we would like to have all the kids in the program wear the vests to school on Friday, August, 31st. This is just before new member / information nights in Sept.
- We will promote the program via other YMCA programs (sporting programs, kids programs, etc.)
- We will promote the program via school flyers but targeted to the major campouts.
- We will continue FREE quest attendance to the Fall Campout and look at discounted attendance for quests at other major events where possible.

We also have some great ideas on how to better organize our efforts.

- As stated above the federation scout will be taking a very active role in recruiting activities.
- We will need active participation from the Nation and Tribal chiefs throughout the year.
- The recruiting task force will have bi-monthly meetings during the year.
- We need volunteers to lead efforts in each major school district. 203, 204, 308. School districts seem to be a great way to organize our efforts.

If you would like to be actively involved in the task force or you just have some good ideas, please let me know. See contact information on p.6.

Please help in anyway you can!! Migwetch (thank you)!

Christopher Bachmann - Prairie Nation Chief
Night Hawk of the Yakama

On-line Registration Available

The Y-Guide & Princess website now features partial online registration. You can now use our website at www.bigtp.org to enter all of your registration information. A representative from the YMCA will then call you for your credit card information to complete the transaction. The online registration page can be reached by following the links from the Member Area or by going directly to www.bigtp.org/registration.

Barry Druhan - Federation Chief
White Owl of the Ottawa

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

My Vest Overfloweth With Patches

You don't know how; and nobody in your family will help....sew on your patches. You have tried hot gluing them, Elmer's gluing them or even slinked into Joanne's to buy fabric glue....only to find those patches eventually peeling off.

This is a cry for help; a call for young and old entrepreneurs alike to help our domestically challenged members keep their patches on.

During the course of our season, we will distribute thousands of patches to our dad's and kids. If you know someone young or old who might be willing to sew patches onto vests for a reasonable fee, it could be their first step towards financial independence.

If you know of an interested sew-er or are a desperate sew-ee, contact me (see below).

Jim Fillar - Asst. Federation Chief
Yellow Fang of the Chippewa

Place Your Thoughts Here

Do you or your child have thoughts or comments about the program? Do you have fun tribal events or activities that "worked" to share with the rest of us? Send them.....we'll print 'em here.

Kid's and Dad's Korner

Some of the things that I like doing for Y Guides & Princess is going to meetings and doing fun things. I really like the campouts and all the fun things we do there, like the big bon fire and the scavenger/critter hunt. I enjoy being able to spend time with my brothers and my dad (really my dad). I think you learn a lot from being in the Y-G & P program, but yet you learn it in a fun way. I just graduated and look forward to going into Trailblazers and hanging out some more with my dad.

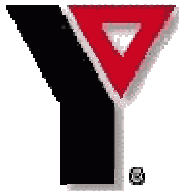
Kali Schrey
Dancing Spider of the Apache

I have been in the program for 5 years now and have had my daughter/princess go from just starting out and getting her Indian name of "Dancing Spider" to having her graduate this last Spring. What a ride. While I will miss her, I still have all the fantastic memories to hold on to. I'm sure she does too. The good news is that I still have two boys in the program and will be in attendance for another 5 years. I can't wait to create new memories and share some great experiences with the boys and all our Y-Guide/Princess friends. In closing, I would wish everyone the same experiences and memories.

Tommy Schrey - Desert Nation Chief
Wolf Cub of the Apache

2006 - 2007 Federation Council

Federation Chief	Barry Druhan	bdruhan@adaptivesim.com	630-375-9703
Asst Chief / Smoke Signaler	Jim Fillar	jfillar@sbcglobal.net	630-416-1709
Prairie Nation Chief	Chris Bachmann	c.bachmann@motorola.com	630-926-6627
Forest Nation Chief	Marc Cooperman	mcooperman@bannerwitcoff.com	312-463-5000
Plains Nation Chief	Carmen Pino	carpin31@comcast.net	630-922-6264
Lake Nation Chief	Steve Mallin	stevenpjm@aol.com	630-327-2210
Desert Nation Chief	Tom Schrey	tschrey@starpointechicago.com	630-885-9094
Mesa Nation Chief	Brian Shapley	bshapley2857@wideopenwest.com	630-416-9908
Scout	Drew Bruozis	abruozis@speakeasy.net	630-778-6450
Sand Painter			
Medicine Man			
Web Spinner	Mark Wright	markwri@yahoo.com	630-922-1259
Sachem	Rob Darlin	rdarlinjr@yahoo.com	312-752-7129
Native American Agent	Shane Loy	sloy@heritageymca.org	630-355-2559



Heritage YMCA Group

2007/2008 Y-Guide , Princesses, and Trailblazer
Parent/Child Registration Form

Session: 07SEP

2970 Y-Princesses
(father/daughter: grades K-4)

2960 Y-Guides
(father/son: grades K-4)

2980 Trailblazers
(father/son: grades 5 and up)

Cost: (Y-Guides/Y-Princesses)

YMCA Members	\$35 per father/child	\$20 each additional child
Community Participants	\$70 per father/child	\$40 each additional child

Cost: (Trailblazers)

YMCA Members	\$25 per father/child	\$15 each additional child
Community Participants	\$45 per father/child	\$20 each additional child

Please ask to purchase a Strong Kid patch for \$10 when you register. Through this campaign, the YMCA insures no one is turned away from a YMCA membership or program due to the inability to pay.

Events will be a separate charge. Please make checks payable to: Heritage YMCA Group

Please use one form for each child. Please fill out all information.

Last Name: _____

Child's First Name: _____

Child's Indian Name: _____

Father's First Name: _____

Father's Indian Name: _____

Address/City/Zip: _____ Subdivision: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Primary e-mail Address(es): 1. _____ 2. _____

Child's Birth Date: _____ Grade (Fall of 2007): _____ School: _____

Returning Members:

Tribe Name: _____ Year Child Joined: _____

Nation: _____ Tribe's Chief: _____

New Members:

- 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, we will carefully assign you to a tribe in your child's age bracket, and as close as possible to your home)
- 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:

Completed forms may be returned to any Heritage Family YMCA Group branch:
Aurora • 460 Garfield Ave. • Aurora, IL 60506
Kroehler • 34 S. Washington St. • Naperville, IL 60540
95th St. • 2120W. 95th St. • Naperville, IL 60564
Field House • 31 W290 Schoger Dr. Naperville, IL 60564
Oswego • 1224 Douglas Rd. • Oswego, IL 60543

For questions, e-mail sloy@heritageymca.org or call Shane Loy at 630.585.2347