



Heritage YMCA Group

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation
Y Guides & Princesses



Friends Always

January 2007

Pals Forever

Winter Campout

Are your sleeping bags, pillows, tribal property, chants, and snow snakes ready? Our winter campout will be held at a new and exciting location this year, the YMCA's own Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana.

Camp Tecumseh's 500 acre facility is situated on the Tippecanoe River near Lafayette, Indiana. This year's campout promises many more activities and service than our previous site. The camp is fully staffed to provide your every need and a special guest will provide the entertainment Saturday night. All you need to do is show up, relax, and enjoy the weekend with your little Guide or Princess. Everyone who has been there says the same thing: "It's great!"

The basic registration fee includes lodging and 5 meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch). You can come Friday night if you wish for an additional fee.

It is important for you and your tribe to register as soon as possible so we can accommodate your tribe's size and lodging needs.

For many more details regarding the Winter Campout come to next Longhouse Meeting and visit our website at:

www.bigtp.org/campout_winter_tecumseh.htm

The Federation Council

Mom's Corner

Mom, we have an ideal way for you to not only help hubby but also participate with your child in the Y Guide / Princess program. See "Patch Contest" on page 2 for details.

Upcoming Events

Longhouse Meeting

Thursday, January 4th
8-9 P.M. at the
Kroehler Family YMCA

Winter Campout

Guides - Jan. 12-14
Princesses Jan. 19-21
Camp Tecumseh- Brookston, IN

Rock Climbing/Pinewood Derby

Guides and Princesses
February 10th
YMCA Fieldhouse

Daddy / Daughter Dance

February 17th
Washington JHS

Patch Design Contest

Calling all artists!! For each Y sponsored event attended, the program provides a patch for Dad and the kids to proudly place on their vests. For each event, we have a contest that every child can enter for the best patch design. All of the contest forms are available in advance on our website at www.bigtp.org. Go to the patch design page, download a form, have your child design the patch, and turn them in to the Kroehler Center by the due date. This can even make a great craft project for your next tribal meeting. Good Luck !!

Rock Climbing - Pinewood Derby Late Night

The Y Fieldhouse will be rockin' (rock climbing that is) in February. Along with the rock climbing wall, boys and girls alike can participate in Pine Wood Derby races, organized basketball games, dodge-ball games, an open gym and pizza and pop.

Rock Climbing - The West wall of the gym will be open all evening to climbers. Dads will need to operate their own child's belay.

Basketball - Refereed games will be organized by grade level.

Pine Wood Derby - There will be four levels of competition; K, 1st, 2nd and 3rd/4th grade.

There will be two divisions; "Rules" (car meets all specs) and "Modified" (everything else).

Cars that will race within the "Rules" division must be purchased from the Y. We expect all kids to race in the "Rules" division. For more details go to www.bigtp.org.

This event is open to friends who may be considering joining your tribe or the program. So invite them along for an action packed night of great wholesome fun. They'll be hooked !

Jim Fillar - Assistant Federation Chief

Honor Tribes are Back !

To provide recognition for those tribes who are working to improve, strengthen, and grow the program, we have re-instituted the Honor Tribe program. Recognition will be bestowed upon tribes that consistently contribute to running the program, improve the quality of the program, or make the program more visible to the community.

In each Smoke Signal and at the upcoming Spring Campout, those tribes having earned an Honor Tribe patch will be recognized.

To earn an Honor Tribe patch your tribe will need to accrue 10 or more points in a year. Points will be awarded for the following;

Two Points For:

- Volunteering & helping at an event.
- Each new member added to your tribe.
- A tribal community service project

One Point For:

- Each longhouse meeting attended by a representative from your tribe.
- A winning patch design from your tribe.
- Marching in a community parade.
- Participating in the Christmas caroling.

As tribes reach ten points, we'll publish their names in the Smoke Signals.

For a tribal community service project, we would like to publicize any such activity in the Smoke Signals. If your tribe participates in a community service project, send us a short e-mail with the details and we will publish it in the next Smoke Signals.

If you think your tribe has earned ten points and don't see your tribe's name, contact us.

Brian Shapley - Mesa Nation Chief

Daddy / Daughter Dance

The Daddy/daughter dance is a wonderful time for Dads to bond with their little Princesses. I have been going to the D/D dance for the last 5 years now and every year has been a wonderful experience with my little girl. These events are extra special to me as I have 5 other children and all 5 are boys. What I like to do is get together with other Dads and their girls and go out for dinner first, like a fancy night out for the girls. I would strongly recommend that if you want to score huge points with both your daughter and your lovely wife, then a corsage is a must. I recommend a wrist corsage. Then to end the evening with a bang, ice cream always is a hit. For those of you who are blessed with a daughter, these will be among your life's greatest memories. Have fun and I'll see you at the dance.

Tom Schrey - Desert Nation Chief

Nation Chiefs Will Be Contacting You

Did you know that your tribe belongs to a Nation?
Did you know there are Nation Chiefs?

Over the next month, your Nation Chief will be contacting a representative of your tribe and arranging a pow-wow. The purpose of this meeting is to make a connection between your tribe and the Federation Council. By meeting and listening to the membership, the Federation Council and the Y can work to improve the program, listen to your concerns, and bring in new ideas to make the program more enriching for all its members.

The last page of this newsletter and our website, www.bigtp.org, shows the most current Nation Map. If your tribe is missing, or the map is incorrect, please contact us.

2006 - 2007 Federation Council

Position	Name	e-mail	Phone
Federation Chief	Rob Darlin	rdarlinjr@yahoo.com	312-752-7129
Asst Federation Chief	Barry Druhan	bdruhan@adaptivesim.com	630-375-9703
Asst Federation Chief	Jim Fillar	jfillar@sbcglobal.net	630-416-1709
Sachem Chief	Dan Tuskey	dantusk@wowway.com	630-717-1989
Prairie Nation Chief	Mitch Bugno	bugz66@msn.com	630-632-0831
Forest Nation Chief	Marc Cooperman	mcooperman@bannerwitcoff.com	312-463-5000
Plains Nation Chief	Jerry Mraz	jmraz@smaltec.com	630-333-5419
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	Chris Bachman	c.bachmann@motorola.com	630-926-6627
Medicine Man			
Native American Agent	Shane Loy	sloy@heritageymca.org	630-355-2559

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
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Y - Guides and Princesses Nation Map

Please contact your Nation Chief (see page 3)...we want to meet with your tribe.

Prairie Nation

Chief - Mitch Bugno

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 - Jerry Mraz

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

Dec 2006

Do You Have Ideas on How to Improve the Y - Guides / Princesses Program ?

Your Federation Council is all ears. Send us a note or better yet, come to the Longhouse Meeting held the first Thursday of every month from 8:00 - 9:00 PM at the Downtown YMCA (Kroehler Center).

These meetings are now designed to gain your input on the program, provide tips to improve your tribal meetings and offer important information on upcoming events.

February's meeting will focus on recruitment and how to grow the program. Soon after, we will be planning next season's activities; a wonderful opportunity for you to influence the planning process.

Bottom line....if you have any suggestions, "bring 'em on!"