



Heritage YMCA Group

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation
Y Guides & Princesses



March 2007

Friends Always / Pals Forever

www.bigtp.org

Get Your Torches Ready... This is The Big One

OK Dads....the snow is melting and spring is in the air. In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love....and....the **Planting Moon (Spring) Campout** at Stronghold Campground. This is the big one! The entire Y-Guides & Princess membership will be camping out together at one of the finest campgrounds in the area.

If you were nosey and peeked at the Mom's Corner, you know that we are offering a great deal this year. Dads and kids not currently in the program are invited and welcome to attend absolutely free. That's right, absolutely free. They can join your tribe at the camp site or we can place them with host tribes from their schools or neighborhoods. There is great satisfaction in seeing campgrounds loaded with lots of kids having fun and getting a chance to camp out for perhaps the first time.

Do your friends a favor and get them to experience a memory of a lifetime at our Spring Campout. As an added feature this year, we have arranged to have a professional photographer on-site to capture memories of your tribe or better yet, just you and your child. A registration form is attached.

Campout Date Change

Please note the Spring Campout date has been changed to May 19 & 20. The date of the campout was discussed over several months at the Longhouse meetings. The Federation Council felt the move to the new date presented fewer conflicts to the membership. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. For more details see www.bigtp.org.

Mom's Corner

Girls, can we talk? Did you know our Y-Guides and Princess program is offering a very special opportunity for your friends and neighbors? Dad's and kids who are not currently in our program are welcome to join us for a weekend of fun at our May spring campout...**absolutely free!** That's right, they can camp overnight in tents, tell stories around the campfire, participate in a torch light parade to rally around a huge bon fire, enjoy a critter hunt, hike, play field games, and explore the area as a non-paying guest of ours. Here's a chance for a Dad to invest only a weekend, yet be rewarded with a memory of a lifetime. So do what Mom's do best and let your friends and neighbors in on this sweet deal.

Family Ice Skating

March 31

Rocket Ice Arena, Bolingbrook

YMCA Family Day with the Chicago Rush

April 1

Allstate Arena, Rosemont

Cantigny Family Picnic

April 15

Cantigny Park

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 on 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.

Late Night at the Y

At our late night at the Field House on Feb. 10, we had over 80 pinewood derby cars compete for awards. The Federation Council would like to thank **Paul Altman** of the Miami tribe for devoting much time and effort to preparing and setting up the track and stewarding the races.

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.

Family Ice Skating

Another great offering in our menu of Y sponsored events will be **Family Ice Skating** on March 31 from 3:10 to 5:10 PM at the Rocket Ice Arena in Bolingbrook. Rocket Ice Arena is a brand new, state-of-the-art facility designed for the whole family. Rocket Ice Arena is the perfect setting to learn how to skate or improve on your skills. Their Pro Shop and Sharpening Center has everything you need and they have a full service concession area so your visit can be worry free. The cost is only \$7 per person; included is skate rental, patch, and two hours of private ice time. The registration form is attached. The address for Rocket Ice Arena is:

180 Canterbury Lane, Bolingbrook, IL.
Phone: 630-679-1700.

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

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.

YMCA Family Day with the Chicago Rush

The Bears lost in the Super Bowl, but did you know that Chicago has another football team that is a champion! The Chicago Rush arena football team is the defending champions of the Arena Football League. On Sunday, April 1st the Rush will be taking on the Los Angeles Avengers in a 12:30pm game at the Allstate Arena. The YMCA has great seats available for you and your family. For only \$20 per person, families can take part in the pre game family fest which includes Kids Korner where kids can make signs for the game, face painters, music promotions and a post game autograph session with the players and dancers. See the registration form attached or at www.bigtp.org.

Recruiting Task Force

Our Recruiting Task Force has been busy! We are developing a campaign to spread the good word about our program, distributing fliers in schools (and pre-schools), lining up advertisements in local newspapers, and generally redoubling efforts at word-of-mouth promotion. All of this is timed to reach the most people possible in time for the Spring Campout. Why?

In years past, the Spring Campout has always been open to kids who are thinking about joining an existing tribe. We encourage people to come for free and camp with the tribe they know.

This year, we are expanding this concept, to encourage anyone interested in joining the program to attend the Spring Campout, regardless of whether they know anyone at all. To make the best of this experience, we hope to match each grade school (and as many pre-schools as possible) with a volunteer, host tribe, so the kids and Dads can interact with an experienced tribe. This will be successful because the torch procession at Stronghold is the best recruiting tool we have, and the camaraderie among a tribe is far more personal.

We will be contacting your tribe asking you to volunteer to host potential new members. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact us! Don't worry about being overwhelmed by guests - we'll respect your wishes in that regard. Remember to tell your guests of our strict no alcohol policy.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the Federation Council or me at home (630.428.7827), work (312.629.7940) or by email at ckinne@fitcheven.com. Migwetch (thank you)!

Charlie Kinne - Sasquatch of the Onondaga.

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!

The patches have been generously donated by Mr. Jeff Spencer of PROFORMA (www.proforma.com/cps). Jeff's office is in Aurora, and he has helped us get started towards our goal. PROFORMA specializes in promotional apparel and programs. Thanks, Jeff !

For more information, please contact or e-mail the Kroehler YMCA or sloy@heritageymca.org.

We thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Jeff Meyer - Former Federation Chief

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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Tribal Tips

Does Your Tribe Have the Basement Blues?

As the Chippewa tribe grew in numbers and age, we learned that basement meetings were sometimes a little too cozy. For a change of pace, we sought out and found many fun yet educational field trips, primarily oriented toward nature or Native American culture. In this and upcoming Smoke Signals, we can share with each other some of our better tribal experiences. Send an e-mail about events that have worked for you and we can include them in future Smoke Signals.

Jim Fillar - Yellow Fang of the Chippewa

Highly recommended is the **Willowbrook Wildlife Center (WWC)** in Glen Ellyn. We recently visited the facility and arranged to have one of their Naturalists lead a private one hour classroom session for our tribe entitled "Birds of Prey". We were up close and personal with "Tonka" and "The Professor", a Red Tailed Hawk and Owl. We learned how they and other birds of prey live and survive in our area.

As an education center, Willowbrook serves as a resource for understanding nature and provides learning experiences about our area's diverse and healthy wildlife populations. It also serves as a rehabilitation facility providing care and medical

treatment for injured and orphaned animals.

The **Visitor Center** features live close-up visits with wild native species on display. The classroom and an indoor discovery area with hands-on, interactive exhibits including games, puzzles and a puppet play station offer exploration for children.

The **Nature Trail** provides an opportunity to learn about wildlife and the prairie, savanna, woodland, and wetland habitats of the county. A half-mile outer loop and a shorter inner loop travel through 40 acres of restored habitats with interpretive signs. The center has an open-air picnic area and picnic shelter near the south end of the parking lot for your use.

Wild species native to DuPage County that have permanent disabilities are housed along the center's **Outdoor-Exhibit Trail**. This is one of the facility's best features. See bald and golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, owls, red foxes, groundhogs, raccoons, opossums and more up close.

Your tribe can just tour the facility and hike the trails or you can enhance your visit with a pre-arranged class for a small fee. Either way you and the kids will enjoy themselves immensely.

www.dupageforest.com/education/willowbrook.html

PS - The Center operates on a shoestring budget. Extra donations serve a good cause. Have fun.

2006 - 2007 Federation Council

Federation Chief	Rob Darlin	rdarlinjr@yahoo.com	312-752-7129
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Scout	Chris Bachman	c.bachmann@motorola.com	630-926-6627
Medicine Man			
Recruiting Task Force	Charlie Kinne	ckinne@fitcheven.com	312-629-7940
Native American Agent	Shane Loy	sloy@heritageymca.org	630-355-2559

Heritage YMCA Big Teepee Federation Program Registration Form

Ice Skating - Saturday, March 31 - Rocket Ice Arena, Bolingbrook

Chicago Rush Football – Sunday April 1 – Allstate Arena, Rosemont

Planting Moon Campout – May 19 & 20 – Stronghold Campground, Oregon IL

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): _____

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

Event	Code	# Attending	Cost	Total (\$)
Ice Skating – March 31	07Feb 2995		\$7 per person	
Chicago Rush Football – April 1	07Feb 1851		\$20 per person	
Planting Moon Campout – May 19 & 20	07Apr 2990		\$16 per person	

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: _____