



Heritage YMCA Group

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation
Y Guides & Princesses



May 2007

Friends Always / Pals Forever

www.bigtp.org

Planting Moon Campout

We are only a week away from the really big one. Dust off the grills, load the TP into the torches, bring a friend, and grab the flashlights for the critter hunt.

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.

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- 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.

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

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.

Cicadas - "Bring 'em on!

See "Spring Campout" (page 2)

Mom's Corner

Ladies, we know what you are thinking. "I read this fabulous newsletter every month and it sure looks like Dad and the kids are having a great time. I wish I could be more involved in this fun Y-Guide / Princess program!"

Well attending the campouts won't work for reasons we won't get into, but let's count some other ways you can get involved; 1) you can help your child draw a patch for each Y sponsored event. The winning patch design will be converted to real patches and will be sewed on close to a thousand vests (see patch contest on the website), 2) be sure to attend the family events we sponsor each year where all family members are welcome; like ice skating and the family picnic, 3) help hubby select a craft for the group to build at the tribal meetings, 4) encourage the tribal elders to hold family oriented tribal events. For example, Some tribes have a "Chief's Picnic" for all family members in June as the season's final event, 5) don't say you heard it here, but go all the way and have a reverse tribal meeting where just the Mom's and the kids attend!

In any way form or fashion, participate and have fun with the kids while doing it.

Planting Moon Campout

May 19 - 20

Stronghold Campground, Oregon IL

Spring Campout (from page 1)

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).

Photographer - A photographer will be on site to take pictures during the campout. This would be a great opportunity to have professional quality keepsake picture(s) taken of your tribe or you with your son or daughter. Pictures will be from 1:00-4:00 PM by the old brick house ("The Ruins"). At the time you take your photo you will need to give your email information and payment to the photographer. Your pictures will then be sent to you via email (\$5 per set regardless of how many) or arrangements can be made to mail prints (\$15 for 1 - 8x10 or 2 - 5x7's).

Honor Tribes - Tribes receiving the coveted Honor Tribe Patch will be given special recognition at the bon fire ceremony (see page 3)

Graduations - There will be a special recognition for kids graduating this year. Have your graduate meet at the "ruins" at 4:30 for a few words from the Chief. Have your graduate prepare a short speech on what he or she enjoyed most about the program. We'll select one boy and one girl to speak at the bon fire. All graduates will be honored at the bon fire as well.

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.

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 available at Eagle Point, 5399 Maple Rd, Milledgeville, IL., 815-225-7473 (\$25 per person for a 1 hour ride, reservations needed).



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 you 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 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).

Honor Tribes

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

Apache Co-ed	Omaha Princesses
Onondaga Princesses	Sioux Guides
Chippewa Co-ed	Hunkpapa Princesses
Onondaga Guides	Yakama Guides
Ottawa Princesses	Seminole 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.

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.

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.

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

Aztec Invade Chicago!

Mark Wright - Aztec

The Dessert Nation's Aztec tribe, went on a field trip to downtown Chicago. "We really got lucky, it was the first kinda warm weekend of the Spring, so we did a lot of walking around and site seeing;" Said Chief Old Bear.

Our tribe adventure included a Saturday afternoon at the Planetarium and dinner at Giordano's (who easily accommodated our 7 Dad and 13 kid tribe). We had an amazing server who could balance an open beverage container on her head. We capped the evening off with a craft in one of the hotel meeting rooms. Sunday morning, we tracked to Lou Mitchell's for breakfast, yum, yum, and then headed to the top of the World. A journey to the top of the Sears tower was a first for many (dads and kids); it was a blast.

"The kids have already asked for an annual trip. Let's just hope the weather cooperates as well."

**Do you have fun tribal events to share?
Send them to us.**

Chippewa Charge into the Arboretum!

Tom Anderson - Chippewa

Ten Chippewa braves and their Fathers met at Shelter 19 and were promptly introduced to Edye Wolf, our guide for the day.

The tribe set off with Edye on a short hike that led to Lake Marmo. Here the Tribe was exposed to our first activity which was to sample the water of Lake Marmo and identify creatures that live in the water. The young braves were excited as they drew water from the Lake, and were then given some "gunk" from the lake bottom to sift through. Any organisms they found in the gunk were deposited into ice-cube trays. After several trips back and forth to the Lake the braves had filled the trays with several types of invertebrates - some were surprised to find they had also collected a small fish in their gunk! Using their "Key To Life In A Wetland" chart the braves then identified by name the various creatures they had found. They learned this exercise is used to determine the pollution level of a body of water.

The Tribe's outing concluded with a trip to the Children's Garden at Morton Arboretum. Here the braves enjoyed the Maze, the "Wonder Pond" and the Evergreen Walk and Lookout. It was the perfect end to a perfect day.

Morton Arboretum is a world class facility right in our backyard. The Arboretum's 1,700 acres are really an outdoor classroom! And, the more than 350 classes, certificate programs, special seminars and symposiums, weekend trips, and nature science camps are among the ways to discover a world of nature!

2006 - 2007 Federation Council

Federation Chief	Rob Darlin	rdarlinjr@yahoo.com	312-752-7129
Asst 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	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@starpoinchicago.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
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); Springbrook
Shasta (P) ; Clow, Patterson	Chippewa (C) ; Meadow Glens, Kingsley, Ranch View	Ottawa (P); White Eagle, St. Raphael
Yakama (G); Fox Chase, Prairie Point, all Oswego	Onondaga (P); Steeple Run, all Batavia	Omaha (P); Mill, Prairie, Hillside, Ellsworth
Iowa (G); Ellsworth, St. Peter & Paul	Seneca (P); Elmwood	Sioux (G); Scott
Yakima (P) ; Highlands		

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: _____