



Smoke Signals



Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation

November 2009

Friends Always / Pals Forever

www.bigtp.org

A Letter from a Y Princess...



When I was a little girl, I absolutely loved being an Indian Princess. I got excited when members of my tribe delivered an invitation to our monthly meetings, I grew ecstatic when the meetings were at my teepee, and I literally lost sleep because I couldn't stop thinking about hay rides and sharks teeth the week before we went to Fall Camp. And although I knew a long time ago that I would always remember how much fun I had in the Indian Princesses, it was only recently that I realized just how much those memories really meant to me. Last week, my suitemate and I decided to take a study break and go get some yogurt at TCBY. In my three years at college, my friends and I have grown accustomed to such ventures (sometimes called procrastination). While my friend and I sat eating our yogurt, a tribe of Indian Princesses came in to get yogurt as well. I recognized the patches and vests immediately, and I commented to my friend that I was once an Indian Princess myself. To my surprise, she informed me that she, too, was an Indian Princess at one time. You can imagine our excitement.

As we began trading stories, my mind became flooded with memories of the years I spent in the Indian Princesses with my dad. I told my friend about saving Quaker Oatmeal boxes to make tom-toms for our invitations, about how my dad would stop at Dunkin Donuts after work and bring home doughnut holes to serve as refreshments when we had meetings at our teepee, about the fried chicken dinner my dad and I cooked for our family to earn our feather patches, and even about the yellow birdhouse my dad and I built that is still in our backyard. She had similar stories that she shared with me, and we both laughed at how funny it was that we remembered such specific things.

I watched the little princesses sitting and talking and laughing with their dads. I wanted so desperately to tell those little girls to treasure each and every moment they spent with their dads. I wanted to tell them that I would give anything some days to be a little princess again, to be with my dad at campout, daddy daughter dance, or making a craft. I wished I could let them know that the time their dads are spending with them now is probably one the most precious gifts they will ever receive.

When I got home that night, I called my dad to tell him about seeing the Indian Princesses. We talked for a few minutes about some of the things we used to do together and I told him that those memories really meant a lot to me. But what I wished I had told him is that they meant the world to me. I wanted him to know that as long as I live I will cherish the years we spent in the Indian Princesses together.

I realize now how lucky I am to have a father that so willingly gave so much of himself for me. I wish I had told my dad that the bond that formed between us during those years was the foundation for the friendship we share today. I wish I had let my dad know that he is the most wonderful father in the world and that I love him with all my heart.

I went to bed that night feeling like I had so much I wanted to say to those little princesses and to my own dad, but I didn't. I guess that is why I wanted to write you this letter. I think the Indian Princesses program is the greatest. I hope all big braves will continue the special bond they have formed with their princesses long after the days of winter overnights and kite flying days are over.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making such a program possible. I will always think back to the years when my dad and I were Lone Star and Brave Star and smile.



It is such a good feeling to know that my dad and I will be FRIENDS ALWAYS.

Upcoming November Events

Fourth Longhouse Meeting

We would like tribes to send a representative (preferably the Chief) to our Longhouse meetings. On the agenda this month: Harvest Moon Campout Recap, Morton Arboretum Recap, Dozin' with the Dinos, Late Night, Caroling and Crafts, Y Trailblazers, etc.

November 5, 2009 7:00 PM at the Fry Family YMCA on 95th St.

Late Night at the YMCA



Saturday, November 14

8:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Fry Family YMCA

\$25 per Dad/child \$6 per additional child



The Late Night at the YMCA is more of a tradition than an event, and this year won't disappoint!! A number of activities will be set up for you and your children. Complete all of the activities and get a prize!! There will be a dodgeball tournament, a tug of war, bags, swimming, and much more!

As a special addition to this year's Late Night, the instructors from World Champion Tae Kwon Do will be present to demonstrate their art. The children will get a chance to learn some martial arts and even break a board for Strong Kids! Bring a dollar to take part in the "Buck a Board" Fundraiser!

Don't miss out on this great night. Registration is attached to this newsletter, you can either fax it in or drop it off at the Field House YMCA located at 31W290 Schoger Dr., Naperville, IL 60564.

See you there, and don't forget your swimsuits and towel!!

December Events

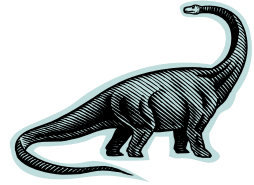
Caroling and Crafts, December 19

Join us as we meet at the Kroehler YMCA for an evening of hot chocolate, cookies, holiday crafts and caroling. Meet at the YMCA at 1:00 PM. Contact Russell at 630-585-2207 for more details.



Other News

The Dozin' with the Dinos Program has proven to be a tremendous success, with the first batch of tickets being sold out within a week. If you would like to register for this program, please contact the Safe 'n Sound office at 630-585-2207. More tickets have been purchased but space is still limited!!



Y Trailblazers Program

If your interested in helping to build this next level of the Y Guides and Y Princesses please contact Russell at 630-585-2207 right away! We are looking for a dad who is willing to volunteer their time on the tribal council as the Trailblazer representative.

The Y Trailblazer Program is currently being redesigned and a new 2010 schedule will be available very soon!! This new structure will make this program better than ever!!

www.bigtp.org

Crafts

How are the craft ideas flowing for your meetings? Need a little assistance? You can now order your crafts through the YMCA.

Take a look at this web site www.ssw.com and type in Native American crafts. Many fun projects will pop up. There are plenty of craft sites out there but the advantage to ordering thru the Y will be a 10% discount and free shipping. The pickup will be at the YMCA Field House, unless other arrangements are made.

I place an order at the first (or so) of every month. You e-mail the item numbers of the craft you would like, the quantity that you need and the date you need them by to rclarke@heritageymca.org. I will send an e-mail back with the cost and estimated delivery date. You will than stop by the Field house and trade me a check/cash for your order and your set to go. You can order all of the items you would like at one time or order month by month.

Hope to be hearing from you soon!

2009/2010 Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Location	Notes / Time / Sponsor
Thu, Aug 27	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Aug 27	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Mon, Sep 07	Labor Day Parade	Naperville	10 AM meeting in the Naperville North HS parking lot
Tue, Sep 15	All Membership Information Night	Naperville	Celebration Center at 919 S. Washington St. at 7:00pm
Thu, Sep 10	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Sep 10	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Fri, Sep 25	Wear Your Vest to School	Your School	Wear your vest to school to promote the program.
Sat, Sep 26	Harvest Pow Wow	Naperville	Family event at Naper Settlement
Thu, Oct 01	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Oct 01	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Sat, Oct 03	Harvest Moon Campout	White Oak	White Oak Campground, Utica, IL
Sat, Oct 24	Morton Arboretum	Lisle, IL	Special Event: Fall Festival Focus
Thu, Nov 05	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Nov 05	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Sat, Nov 14	Late Night at the YMCA	Fry YMCA	Fry Family Y on 95th Street- 8-11PM
Thu, Dec 03	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Dec 03	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Sat, Dec 19	Caroling and Crafts	Kroehler Y	1PM - Singing, Crafts, snacks
Thu, Jan 07	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Jan 07	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Fri, Jan 08	Wear Your Vest to School	Your School	Wear your vest to school to promote the program.
Sat, Jan 16	Snow Moon Campout	Tecumseh	Camp Tecumseh, Brookston IN (www.camptecumseh.org)
Sat, Jan 30	"Go to the Snow" Campout	TBD	TBD
Thu, Feb 04	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Feb 04	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Sat, Feb 06	Father/Daughter Dance	Naperville	919 S. Washington St. Celebration Community Life Center
Sat, Feb 27	Mother/Son Dance	Kroehler Y	Kroehler Family YMCA
Thu, Mar 04	Longhouse Chiefs meeting	Fry YMCA	7PM - Tribal Chiefs or rep. should attend.
Thu, Mar 04	Federation Council meeting	Fry YMCA	8PM - Fed. Council members or rep. should attend.
Thu, Mar 05	Dozin' with Dinos Museum Overnight	Field Museum	Special Event: 6 PM at the Field Museum, call 630-585-2207 for details.
Sun, May 15	Planting Moon Campout	Oregon, IL	Stronghold Campground www.strongholdcenter.org
Sun, May 31 st	Memorial Day Parade	Naperville	10 AM at Centennial Beach – Mesa Nation



BIG TEEPEE FEDERATION PARENT/CHILD EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



Session: 09SEP

The YMCA accepts its responsibility to create an environment where models of acceptable behavior are found, and prohibits it staff, volunteers, and participants from consuming alcohol at YMCA events. The alcohol policy will be enforced at each event. Please don't risk participation in future events!

Father's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Child's First Name: _____ Child's First Name: _____

Child's First Name: _____ Child's First Name: _____

Tribe: _____ Tribe Chief's Name: _____

New Participant? Yes _____ No _____

EVENT	CODE	DEADLINE	COST	NUMBER ATTENDING	TOTAL (\$)
Dozin' with the Dinos	10JAN	2994	\$55 Per Person, space is limited		
Winter Campout-	10JAN 2990	Sat/Sun	\$125 per father/child \$35 for extra child		
	10JAN 2991	Fri/Sat/Sun	\$165 per father/child \$55 per extra child		
STRONG KIDS PATCH	Help the YMCA never turn anyone away due to an inability to pay. \$10 - Voluntary Donation				
TOTAL					

Payment Type: Master _____ Visa _____ Debit card _____ Discover _____ Draft _____ Check # _____
Card No. _____ Exp. _____ Holder name _____

Registration Form and Waiver of Liability

Participant 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 damages the Heritage YMCA Group, and its respective officers, directors, Trustees, Board of Directors, members, employees, or agents. I hereby allow the YMCA to take pictures (still or video) of my self 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.

Employee Use:

Initials: _____

Today's Date: _____

Center: _____

Signature (Parent or Guardian) _____ Date _____

Caring

Honesty

Respect

Responsibility

The YMCA Four Core Values

Fold and tape closed

Place
Stamp
Here

Y-Guides and Princess
Heritage YMCA Group
31 W290 Schoger Dr.
Naperville, IL 60564

Attention: Russell Clarke

Fold and tape closed

Y-Guides and Princess
Heritage YMCA Group
31 W290 Schoger Dr.
Naperville, IL 60564

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Our Mission

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