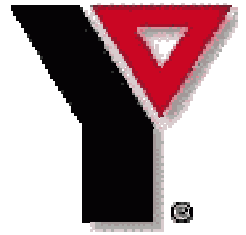


Heritage YMCA Group

# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation  
Y Guides, Princesses, and Trailblazers



Friends Always

September/October 2003

Pals Forever



## Autumn Events are Better than EVER!



### Federation Chief Moon Hawk Speaks:

We're off and running on a new program year, and, thanks to the great work by last year's Chief, Gene Poletto, and the Federation Council, we have most of our coming year's event schedule in place. If you are new to the program, please take a minute and

acquaint yourself with the federation council roster inside. Feel free to call anyone on the council if you have questions, concerns, or even an idea about how we can make this program even better. Also, go online and make sure you bookmark BigTP.org. There you'll find updated event information, reference tools to help hold a meeting, and an education center with links to all types of useful information, including links to all of the recognized Native American Tribes in the U.S. As we all know, campouts mark three of the most important times of the year for our program. This year we expect to grow again as an organization and have even more people attending. Due to some unfortunate occurrences at last Spring's campout, we are asking for everyone to review and adhere to the enclosed policy sheet regarding the "No Alcohol Policy." Please respect the fact that these campouts are designed for you to be able to spend time with your children. It is your responsibility, as part of this

### NEXT LONGHOUSE

Thursday, October 2nd,  
8-9 p.m. at the  
Kroehler Family Center  
34 S. Washington

ALL TRIBES SHOULD BE  
REPRESENTED AT THE LONGHOUSE.



### Upcoming Events

**Fall Campout**  
**September 27th**  
**Lake, Prairie, and Forest Nations**

**Fall Campout**  
**October 4th**  
**Mesa, Desert, and Plains Nations**

**Boo at the Zoo**  
**Brookfield**  
**Saturday, October 25th**

**Guides Late Night**  
**November 8th**  
**95th St. Family Center**

**Princess Late Night**  
**November 15th**  
**95th St. Family Center**

### Chief's message continued:

Federation to be role models. Role models follow the rules. Show your children that for these few days each year you are willing to sacrifice everything else on your schedule to spend time with them. It's not too late to recruit new members. If you meet any Dads at school functions who are exhausted, time stressed, or close to

burn out, you've probably identified a Dad who needs help in finding time to spend with his child. Don't assume they know about the Guide and Princess Program. Share your experiences and tell them to call Ben Pinegar at the YMCA. He'll make sure they get the information they need. Don't forget the Patch Store (info in

this issue) has all types of neat patches you can buy for your tribe members. Our tribe, the Mighty Shastas, occasionally give out Spirit Award patches or reward patches for various tasks. Check out their online store. Finally I'd like to mention again the importance of the YMCA's five-year development plan commitment to this program. It will allow us to move forward to create one of the best programs in the country for Dads and

children. Show your thanks to Ben Pinegar whenever you can.

Chief Moon Hawk



YMCA Guides & Princess Contact:  
Ben Pinegar, can be reached at 420-6270 Ext. 1123.  
message, and he will get back to you.



Leave a

[www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org)

# Shingoethe Center for Native American Culture at Aurora University

The facility director for this center came to visit with the federation council late last year. This is a fantastic resource for all tribes to begin to incorporate a high level of the Native American theme into your tribe.

You can visit the center, which has an interactive museum feeling to it, or you can rent items to use in your tribal meetings. There is a video library that can be checked out for viewing at your meetings. There is also fantastic "Discovery Boxes" that you can check out. These are boxes of artifacts and information on different aspects of Native American Life. They come with instructions, stories, and lesson plans for presenting the materials.

Utilizing this center is a fantastic way to bolster our Native American theme, and your little guide or princess's experience. There are tribal honor points for taking a tour, using a discovery box, and renting a video. The honor tribes for the 2003-2004 year will definitely come from the group of tribes utilizing these resources.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**Open September 14, 2003**

**Hours: 1-4pm Sunday (Weekday hours during school)**

**Schedule tours 2 weeks in advance. Contact Jeff Myers @ [jlac1547@execpc.com](mailto:jlac1547@execpc.com)**

**Tours are 1.5 - 2 hours, 16 - 20 people max is a good size for one volunteer, 60 people at a time.**

**Price Per Person: \$3 - \$5**

**Tours are tailored for kids, with hands on activities designed to be interactive.**

**Discovery Boxes: \$10.00 for 2 weeks rental.**

**Video Library Rental: \$3.00 for 2 weeks.**

**[www.aurora.edu/museum](http://www.aurora.edu/museum)**

**Dr. Michael Sawdey**

**630-892-6431**

# Schedule of Events for 2003-2004

Time to grab your calendars for the year and get your priorities straight. The following events will be remembered by you and your Guide or Princess for years to come, but only if you attend.

September	27th	Campout for Lake, Prairie, and Forest Nations
October	4th	Campout for Mesa, Desert, and Plains Nations
October	25th	Boo at the Zoo – Trip to Brookfield Zoo for their Halloween Fest
November	8th	Guides Late Nite- 95th St. Family Center
November	15th	Princesses Late Night – 95th St. Family Center
December	6th	IMAX at Seven Bridges
January	10th	Princess Winter Campout
January	24th	Guides Winter Campout
February	TBD	Daddy Daughter Dance – Date TBD
February	TBD	Rock Climbing at Lifetime Fitness –Date TBD
March	6th	Field Museum
April	TBD	TBD
May	15th	Spring Campout

## Bison Name Contest Winners

**Winner - Soaring Spirit - Meghan Horton, Hopi Princess Tribe.** Because she is sponsored by the teamwork of Soaring Foundation and YMCA Princesses and Guides who always try to honor the Great Spirit.

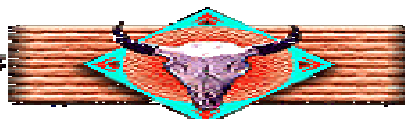
**First runner up - Gentle Spirit - Justin Von Arb, Powhatan Guides Tribe.** Gentle because it was the only trait we knew about her. Spirit because of the way Naperville Guides and Princesses came together to help purchase her.

**Second runner up - Prairie Princess - Allie Parta, Omaha Princess Tribe.** Bison live on the prairies. This is a young female, very gentle, like a princess. She is destined for a life of grace, bringing culture and understanding about her species to the world, much like the work of a Princess.

## Big Teepee Federation - Smoke Signals

### 2002/2003 BIG TEEPEE FEDERATION COUNCIL

Federation Chief	Dan Maloney	Shasta	561-3406	<a href="mailto:naperdan@aol.com">naperdan@aol.com</a>
Assistant Federation Chief of Heritage	Jeff Meyers	Potowatomi	548-1853	<a href="mailto:jlae1547@execpc.com">jlae1547@execpc.com</a>
Assistant Federation Chief of Culture	Dan Tuskey	Choctaw (P)	717-1989	<a href="mailto:dtuskey@hotmail.com">dtuskey@hotmail.com</a>
Desert Nation Chief	Steve Rothmund	Anasazi (P)	753-9940	<a href="mailto:srothmun@sidley.com">srothmun@sidley.com</a>
Forest Nation Chief	Dean Degenhardt	Onondaga (G)	961-3985	<a href="mailto:ddegenhardt@engineering.com">ddegenhardt@engineering.com</a>
Lake Nation Chief	Dave Parta	Omaha	357-2782	<a href="mailto:daveparta@hotmail.com">daveparta@hotmail.com</a>
Mesa Nation Chief	Andrew Preston	Hunkpapa	240-5839	<a href="mailto:ahpreston@hotmail.com">ahpreston@hotmail.com</a>
Plains nation Chief	John Ovington	Kaskaskia	922-8951	<a href="mailto:Ovington90@aol.com">Ovington90@aol.com</a>
Prairie Nation Chief	Mike Enzien	Onondaga (P)	428-0715	<a href="mailto:mvenzien@att.net">mvenzien@att.net</a>
Sachem (Chief Emeritus)	Gene Poletto	Kaskaskia	904-8404	<a href="mailto:gpoletto@worldnet.att.net">gpoletto@worldnet.att.net</a>
Task Force Chairman	Ollie Simeth	Mojave (P)	845-9774	<a href="mailto:oliver.simeth@ngc.com">oliver.simeth@ngc.com</a>
Scout (Webmaster)	Eric Weimer	Onondaga (P)	605-4315	<a href="mailto:gr8ful@acm.org">gr8ful@acm.org</a>
Smoke Signaler (Newsletter)	Chris Rosenthal	Choctaw (G)	560-6323	<a href="mailto:cjrosenthal@aol.com">cjrosenthal@aol.com</a>
Sand Painter	Russ Hedrick	Shasta		



**Federation longhouse meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. in the Kroehler Family Center. Each tribe should be represented. This is where you can get up-to-date accurate information on the upcoming activities, program status, and particularly earn your tribe honor points. If your tribe is never represented at the council meetings, you will probably not be looking forward to honor tribe patches at the spring campout. Don't wait until it's your turn to represent your tribe, Come check a meeting out for yourself!**

# HISTORY OF THE OMAHA PEOPLE

The Omaha Indian nation members were the inhabitants of a large territory to the west of the Missouri River, between the Platte and the Niabrara Rivers. It appears that the Omaha originally lived on the Atlantic coast. Over time they migrated west until, by the 17th Century, they had settled in Missouri. They were driven from that land, however, by the Dakota Indians and, by the mid 1700s, were dwelling in the area of modern day Nebraska where they encountered the white man.

The word Omaha means 'those who go upstream' or 'against the current.' The Omaha lived in tipis during the summer period when they were hunting and in earthen lodges over the winter. Tipis were made of buffalo skins and supported by cedar lodge poles. The construction of the tipi was always done by the women. Two women working together could do this job in about two hours. The earth lodges used in the winter time were about eight feet high and featured a dome shaped roof. The roof had a hole at the top that would let in sunlight and allow ventilation for the smoke from the fire, which was always placed in the middle of the lodge.

The Omaha were hunters and planters, in accordance with the seasons. During the planting season the men would clear the fields in preparation for planting, whereupon the women would actually do the planting. Hunting was the primary responsibility of the men, with buffalo, deer, bear and small mammals being the targets. Birds and fish were also a part of the Omaha diet. The women would also gather roots and plants like ground nuts, artichokes and mushrooms. The principal crops grown were beans, maize, squash and melons. Omaha women were also skilled craftspeople. They made pots, wove baskets and made tools from bone and wood. The Omaha were late in utilizing the horse. The first Omaha brave to spot this strange beast thought he had happened upon a large elk. The animal followed him back to his village and soon the people were able to capitalize on the mild nature of the horse. It would be used extensively for both hunting the bison, going on the warpath and as a mode of haulage.

The Omaha would use a travois – a couple of poles attached to a horse or dog – carry their belongings from one camp to the next. The Omaha dressed in typical Plains Indian fashion. The men wore buckskin leggings and shirts which were embroidered and fringed. On their feet they would wear moccasins. The men wore their hair long and loose. Men would also wear ear rings. The Omaha were a musical people. From an early age children were taught to make instruments, as well as to play them. The pow wow was a highlight of the Omaha social calendar. Lewis and Clark came across the Omaha in 1814. William Clark noted in his journal regarding the area of Nebraska in which he came across the Omaha that 'this would make a good location for a trading and military post.' And so it came to be. A trading post was set up by the French in 1812. But white encroachment on the land of the Omaha was stalled for a further 20 years due to the fact that all lands west of the Missouri were labeled 'Indian Territory.'

The Omaha people generally established friendly relations with the Mormons who trekked through their lands on the way to Utah in the 1850's. In 1854 the Omaha tribe gave most of its hunting grounds in the eastern Nebraska region to the United States Government. In return they were paid nearly \$850,000. In 1882 a reservation was established for the Omaha people in Nebraska. The majority of Omaha still live there today.

## **All Events Alcohol Policy Zero Tolerance in 2003-2004**

Tribes found in violation of this policy at any program event will be suspended from the program for 12 months from the time of the infraction. All situations will be dealt with on a tribal basis.

Unfortunately, because we are organized in tribes, this may put some of you at risk if you have others in your tribe who cannot control themselves. If that is your situation, please contact Ben Pinegar or one of the council chiefs if you feel a need to switch tribes to avoid any potentially risky situation before the problems arise. This program is designed to create time to spend with your children, The council encourages all of you to use that time to be a positive role model for your children as well as the other children in the program. We also recognize the seriousness of the situation and that there are troubled souls among us. For any program member who has a problem with this policy, we suggest you call the Kroehler Family Center. The staff will anonymously refer you to a rehab councilor who can help you with your problem.

Many before us have worked hard to maintain our Native American theme and create a special program for you to share with your children. Let's all act responsibly.

In addition to the program policy, there are specific policies in force at each of the 3 campout facilities we visit. This policy will also be enforced. Any tribe caught with alcohol at the campout will be asked to leave the facility by the campground staff. This will include those early arrivals on Friday nights. Zero tolerance in the above policy applies to alcohol containers, alcohol itself, and personal inebriation.

# Big Teepee Federation - Smoke Signals

## HERITAGE YMCA GROUP BIG TEEPEE FEDERATION Y-GUIDE/PRINCESS REGISTRATION

This registration and applicable fees must be returned to the Kroehler Family Center at 34 S. Washington St. or the  
95th St. Family Center at 2120 W. 95th Street, both in Naperville, IL.

**Please fill out form completely!**

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.

**The alcohol policy will be enforced. Please don't risk future participation in events!**

Father/Child Name: _____
Phone #: _____ Tribe: _____

Event	Code	Registration Deadline	# Attending	Cost	Total Paid
Boo at the Zoo Brookfield IL October 25th	03SEP 1643	15-Oct-03		\$8.00 per person	

Payment:     Cash     Check    **Total Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_

Charge #: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa - MC - Discover    Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Signature of Participant (18 and over) or Guardian

<b>Employee Use:</b> _____ Today's Date: _____ Employee Initials: _____ Center: _____
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Father/Child Name: _____
Phone #: _____ Tribe: _____

Event	Code	Registration Deadline	# Attending	Cost	Total Paid
Guides Overnight 95th St. Family Center November 8th	03OCT 1641			\$12 per person	
Princess Overnight 95th Street Center November 15th	03OCT 1642			\$12 per person	

Payment:     Cash     Check    Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge #: \_\_\_\_\_    Visa - MC - Discover    Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Signature of Participant (18 and over) or Guardian

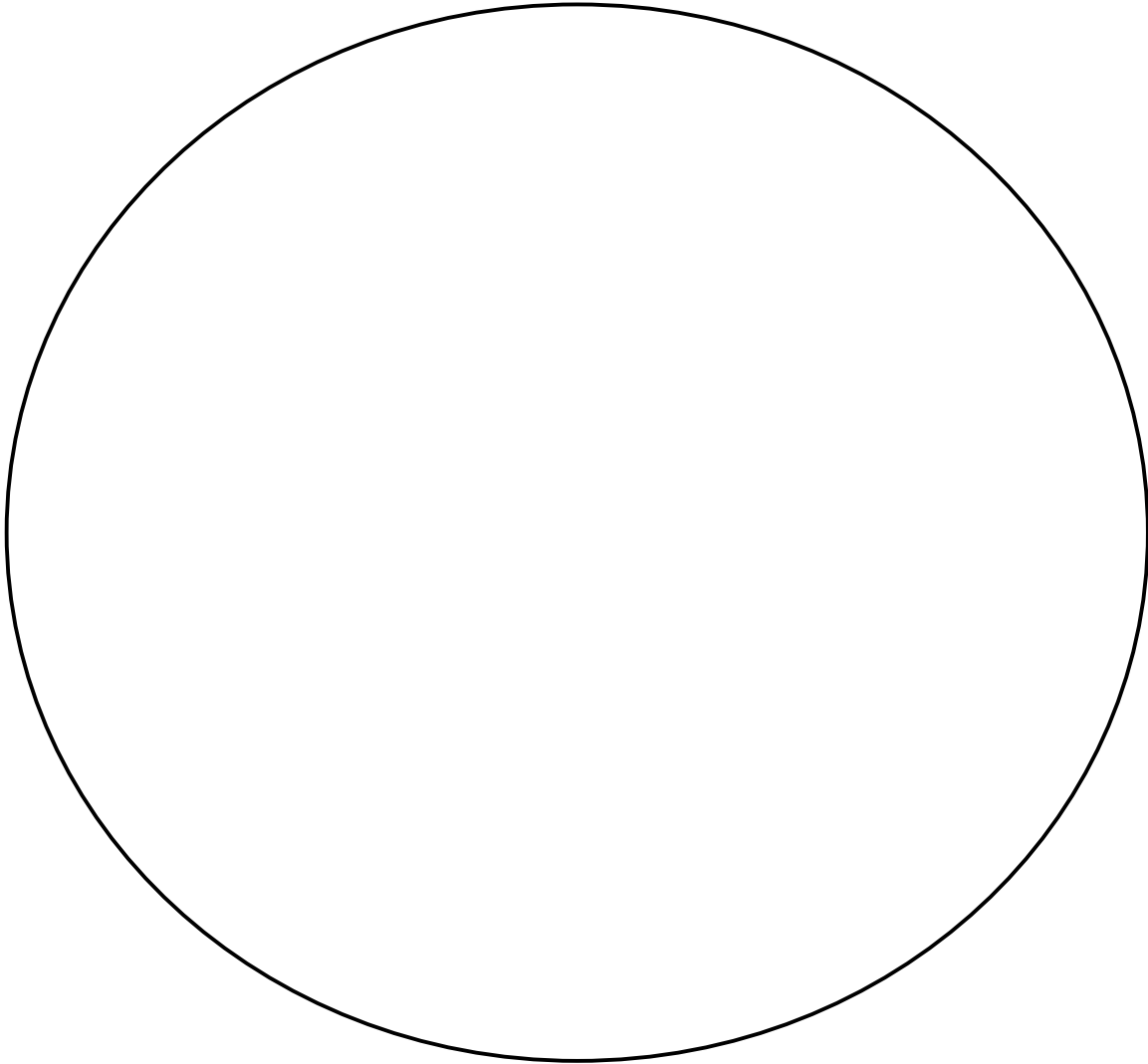
Employee Use: _____
Today's Date: _____
Employee Initials: _____
Center: _____



# Boo at the Zoo Patch Design Contest

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Form is due back at Kroehler Family Center by September 25th, 2003



**Rules:**

Must be a kid to enter.

Use crayons only.

Use only 6 colors plus black

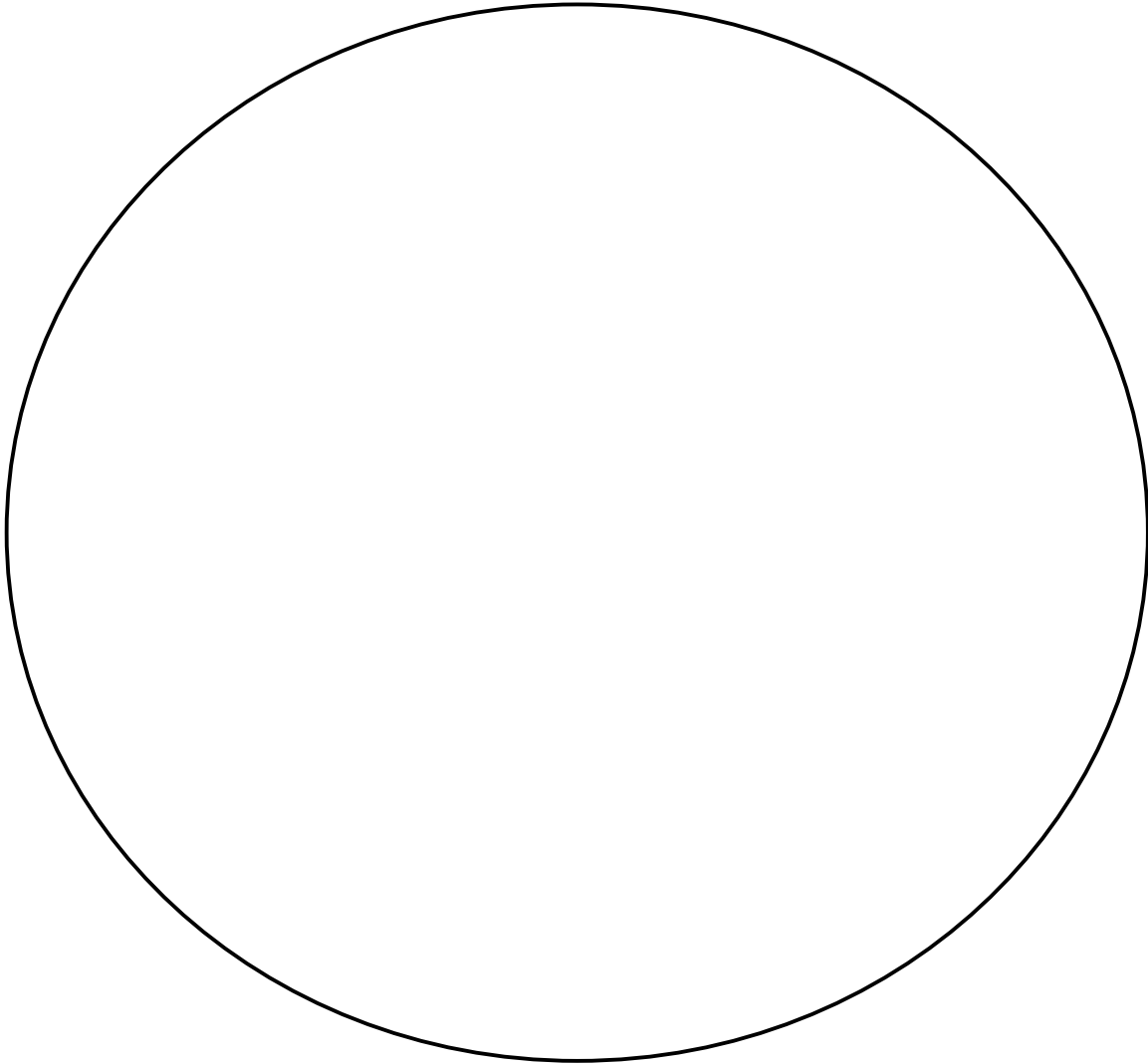
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_

# November Late Night Patch Design Contest

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**Form is due back at Kroehler Family Center by October 9th, 2003**



**Rules:**

Must be a kid to enter.

Use crayons only.

Use only 6 colors plus black

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tribe:** \_\_\_\_\_