



Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Prairie Trail Federation
December 2003



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Native American Facts

Have you heard of the "Ghost Dance"?
What's up with that?
Answer on back.

Winter Campouts Coming

January campouts are just around the corner! Tribal Chiefs, your registration forms and money are (perhaps were, by the time you receive this!) due at the December 1 Longhouse meeting. Schedules for Guides and Princesses are enclosed, so please check them out and check in with the nation chief in charge with any questions.

The Trailblazers will also be camping on January 2-4 at Covenant Harbor in beautiful Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Skiing, roller skating, water park fun—this campout has it all. See the enclosed flyer for more details, and use the handy registration form to get in on the fun! Remember—4th grade Princesses and Guides are invited, and registrations and payments are due December 21.

Don't Forget--Lord of Rings On December 20

Seats are going fast for the special Federation showing of "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" on Saturday, December 20. But if you hurry, you still have time to get in. Everything possible will be done to accommodate everyone who orders, so please get those registrations in ASAP. The enclosed flyer has all the details.

Trailblazers To Lend Santa a Hand

Princess and Guides chiefs picked up their Secret Santa bags at the last Longhouse (or surely will contact Phil Palmer at (708) 246-0969 or Ralph Placzek at (708) 246-8040 if they haven't done so). But as per usual, the Trailblazers are in on the action, as well. The Trailblazers will again be supporting Community Support Services' Santa Anonymous program, fulfilling wish lists for developmentally disabled individuals and their families. See the enclosed flier for further information or call Mike Pabian (312) 394-5831 weekdays or (708) 246-1153 evenings/weekends.

Next Longhouse

Monday, December 1

7:00 PM: Board and
Nation Chiefs

8:15 PM: Tribal Chiefs



Important Dates to Remember

December 2: Secret Santa drop-
Off for Guides

December 4: Secret Santa drop-
Off for Princesses

December 12: Coloring Contest
entry deadline

Let's Try This Again . . .

As you all know, the last edition of Smoke Signals appears to have been sidetracked by the Great Spirit on its way to your tepees. One unfortunate consequence of the delay was that the coloring contest entries were already "late" by the time most of you received the entry! Thankfully, we're a pretty resourceful bunch, and a number of you sent entries in anyway. Winners will be notified by our esteemed Chief of Coloring, Woody Paulison.

Entries for this month must be postmarked by **December 12** to qualify for the free campout. Stick with me, guys, we'll get this right yet!!!

Attention, Stargazers!!

The Adler Planetarium outing we told you about last month is beginning to take shape. The event will take place on Saturday, February 28, from 6:00PM to 10:00 PM. We will have our own private access to the facility and a theater specifically reserved for our group. Tickets are just \$15 per person, and the price of admission includes bus transportation to and from the Planetarium. So mark your calendars, and watch for next month's Smoke Signals for registration details.

Honor Tribe Points To Report??

Please contact Dave Hight at
(708) 579-1732, or e-mail at
hight@wildmanharrold.com.

Native American Facts

The Ghost Dance was a ceremonial spiritual dance inspired by the Paiute medicine man Wovoka, who foresaw the return of the American continent to the Indians. The U.S. government suppressed this movement, which eventually led to the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890, the last major battle between U.S. troops and Native Americans.

Source: usahistory.com

Federation Website: www.yigp.org

Log on and check it out!

2004 TRAILBLAZER CAMPOUT LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN

CAP OFF THE CHISTMAS BREAK IN STYLE!!!!

January 2-4, 2004

**FOR ALL TRAILBLAZERS and 4th GRADE GUIDES &
PRINCESSES**

**Covenant Harbor – Lake Geneva, WI
Skiing and/or Water Park at the Grand Geneva
Roller Skating Pizza Party**



THE MOUNTAIN TOP SKI RESORT

Ski fifteen awesome slopes with a top elevation of 1086 feet and 1.4 mile runs, or snowboard Halfpipe and Fun Park on Foxtail Trail. Beginner to expert you are sure to enjoy a day (or two) of fun. Rent equipment, take a lesson, or show'em how! *Snack bar or restaurant – Food / Drinks, Burgers, hot dogs, etc.

Please register now!

**Fourth Grade
Guides & Princesses**
are invited to share the
Trailblazer experience !!



TIMBER RIDGE WATER PARK

(SUNDAY ONLY)

Moose Mountain Falls which features 30,000 square feet of indoor water enjoyment and another features include: Two giant slides, both starting from a 35 foot tower and will take guests on a thrilling ride more than 300 ft. A "Lazy River", where you'll enjoy winding 560 feet on inner tubes through many twists and turns. *Snack bar – Food / Drinks, Pizza, etc.

Once again, the Delevan Roller Rink will be ours from 9:00 pm to midnight (our own private party after 10:00 pm). Pizza comes at 10:00 pm.

What a weekend!

Friday – January 2, 2004 (optional)

5:00 to 10:00pm Optional Skiing on your own at Grand Geneva. Dinner on your own.

Saturday – January 3, 2004

8am

Breakfast for Friday arrivals

- 9am to noon Open gym in Carriage House & Sledding – bring your own (NO METAL RUNNERS)
- 10am to ????? Skiing at Grand Geneva (we get a group discount if purchased in advance)
- 12:30 to 1:30pm Lunch
- 1:30 to 5:00pm Sledding – bring your own (NO METAL RUNNERS)
- Tubing – Covenant Harbor has the tubes (bring your own snow)
- Skating (weather permitting), Cross Country Skiing – rentals available. Grand Geneva also has x-country trails and ski and snowshoe rentals for extra fee.
- Open Gym in the Carriage House
- 3:00pm to 5:00pm Broom Hockey and/or Monster Ball
- 5:00 to 10:00pm Optional Skiing on your own at Grand Geneva
- 5:30 to 6:30pm Dinner
- 6:30pm Dads meeting (right after dinner) in main lodge
- 7pm to 10pm Open Gym in Carriage House. Games, Movies, etc. on your own in town.
- 9pm to midnight Old fashioned skating party at the Delavan Roller Rink – Bring your own skates, or borrow a set of four-wheeled skates for free. (Your clean inline skates are welcome). Pizza party at 10:00 pm.

Sunday – January 4, 2004

- 8am to 9am Breakfast at main lodge
- 9am to Noon Open Gym in the Carriage House (Trailblazer's must check out of camp by Noon)
- 10am to ????? Skiing at Grand Geneva (We have group rates).
- or
- Swim at the Timber Ridge Water Park at Grand Geneva. (We have group rates). Cross-Country skiing and snowshoes are also available at Grand Geneva for extra fee.

Directions

Covenant Harbor Camp (262) 248-3600: Lake Geneva, WI. (about 70 miles) Take Tri-State Tollway to Interstate 94 to Kenosha. Exit west onto Route 50. Travel west on Route 50. Go through city of Lake Geneva. About one mile past the lake, turn left (south) at Covenant Harbor sign. Nearest Emergency Center: Mercy Walworth Medical Center 262-245-0535 JCT. 67 AND 50.

Grand Geneva (800)558-3417: Lake Geneva WI. North of Route 50. East of Lake Geneva, just past Highway 12.

Delavan Roller Rink (262)728-6203: Delavan, WI. Route 50 at Highway F, West of Camp.

What to Bring (besides sleeping bags)

If you go swimming: Swimsuit, water shoes (towels provided)

If you go skiing: Extra gloves, socks, face cover, and clothes to keep you dry.

If you want to just hang around the cabin: sled, skates, ice fishing equipment, warm clothes to play in the snow all day, and of course....snacks.

Registration and payment deadline: December 21, 2003

(As a reminder, Alcoholic Beverages are not allowed at the Covenant Harbor Camp)

Questions?: Scott Jensen (708) 59-3775 (home), (312) 263-5452 (work)

Email: svbcjnsn@aol.com

2004 TRAILBLAZER CAMPOUT

REGISTRATION

Last Name: _____

Dad's Name: _____

Youth Names _____
and ages: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We would like to room with: _____

Friday

Covenant Harbor Lodging (includes Saturday breakfast) _____ people @ \$17.00 each = \$ _____

(Note – if we don't have 25 for breakfast, no breakfast, and \$5.00/person will be refunded)

Saturday

Covenant Harbor Lodging (includes lunch, dinner, breakfast,
skating and pizza party)

1 Dad @ \$50.00 each = \$ 50.00

1st Child @ \$40.00 each = \$ 40.00

_____ Add'l @ \$35.00 each = \$ _____
children

We will probably be there for Saturday lunch Yes _____ / No _____ (to give the camp rough numbers)

Skiing and/ or water park (Note Ski prices are per day, and Water Park is Sunday only)

Ski (rental & lesson) 10:00am to 10:00pm _____ people @ \$44.00 each = \$ _____

Snowboard (rental & lesson) 10:00 am to 10:00 pm _____ people @ \$59.00 each = \$ _____

Ski (own equipment) 10:00am to 10:00pm _____ people @ \$32.00 each = \$ _____

Water Park (Sunday only) 10:00am to 9:00pm _____ people @ \$15.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL CAMP, SKI AND WATER PARK FEES = \$ _____

Mail check payable to Prairie Trail Federation and send to Scott Jensen, 217 N. Catherine Ave., La Grange, IL 60525

Registration and payment deadline: December 21, 2003

(As a reminder, Alcoholic Beverages are not allowed at the Covenant Harbor Camp)

By JRR Tolkien

The Lord of the Rings

The Return of the King

Sponsored by:

Rich-Port YMCA
Prairie Trail Federation Trailblazers
Dads and Kids Friends for ever

Loews Quarry 14 Theatres
63rd and LaGrange Rd.
Hodgkins, Illinois
Phone (708) 352-0757

Date: Saturday
December 20, 2003

Contact: Brian Whitlock
3820 Johnson Avenue
Western Springs, IL 60558-1137

Phone: (708) 246-9569
Fax: (312) 756-3941
Email: TaxGenie@aol.com

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Ticket Prices: \$6.00

Seating for this event is limited to 288 seats at present. This event is open to all family members of the Rich Port YMCA Trailblazers, Guides, and Princess Programs. Priority will be given to Families of Trailblazers. All other orders will be filled on a first come first serve basis.

Tickets will be sent by return mail.

Brian: Please send me:

Name: _____

of Tickets: _____

Address: _____

Price per person x _____ \$6.00

Total =====

Telephone: _____

Send Ticket orders, checks payable to Prairie Trail Federation, and a stamped self-address return envelope to Brian Whitlock at the above address. Please do not send cash.



Rich Port YMCA
TRAILBLAZERS

November, 2003

Dear Fellow Trailblazer,

As the holidays approach, in the spirit of the season, our thoughts turn to those in our community who may need a helping hand. Again this year, the Trailblazers would like to continue our support of those individuals who receive assistance from Community Support Services in Brookfield. CSS provides help to persons with developmental disabilities and their families. For the last several years, while our Guide and Princess Tribes focused on their wonderful support of the Community Nurses Associations' Secret Santa Program, we Trailblazers, working with CSS's **Santa Anonymous** program, made a difference to a number of children and adults by providing donations and presents. And the personal "thank you's" written by CSS clients to the Trailblazer program showed just how much our efforts meant to special people right here in our community. My own family was grateful for the opportunity to fulfill a few simple wishes: a special book, a pair of jeans, small boom box, a blanket, a doll, and a sweater. This is, after all, what the season is about -- and what our Guide/Princess/ Trailblazer tradition teaches us -- though friendly service to the community, to seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Spirit.

As last year, individual Christmas wish lists for CSS clients are being made available to Trailblazer families who are asked to buy the presents and return them by December 10, wrapped and ready to place under the tree.

Please take a minute to reflect on the abundance we have and what you may be able to share with another person. We certainly appreciate that there have been many calls for support. Nonetheless, we would ask that you consider your family's sponsorship of someone who could use a little lift at this time of year. If you would like to do so or if you have any questions, please give me a call -- at home in the evening or on weekends (708) 246-1153, or at work during the day (312) 394-5831. If you prefer to make a straight donation, that would be very welcome and you can make a check payable to Community Support Services and send it to my home -- 4018 Ellington Ave., Western Springs, IL 60558.

Thanks to those of you who have so generously supported this effort in the past. And I look forward to working with many more of you this year to make our support of **Santa Anonymous** so meaningful for so many CSS clients.

Sincerely,
Spirit Bear/Mike Pabian

A Tip or Two from Chief Keokuk

Aim Number Three: To love the sacred circle of the family.

All you need is love.

John Lennon

My friends, how desperately do we need to be loved and to love.

Chief Dan George of the Coast Salish

This aim is something we all take very seriously. At Federation Events and Campouts, I just marvel at the manner in which the dads of the Prairie Trail Federation are loving examples of this, the Third Aim: *To love the sacred circle of the family*. I watch dads patiently helping sons and daughters, giving friendly encouragement when it is needed, cheering on their children, giving comfort, providing care and fostering the parent and child relationship.

The threshold responsibility of parenting is to simply provide food, shelter, clothing, and education. We all do this. But there is no greater act of parenting than being generous with our time, resources and love. Time and again I see our dads shower their children and the children of our Federation with these kindnesses.

Many forces tug on the sacred circle of the family. But we help each other. I see our members reinforce the sacred circle of the family by providing comfort and support to children, other than their own, in their tribes and nations. It does indeed take an entire village to raise the children of our community.

Not only do we love our own family circles, we support the sacredness of family in those less fortunate. Our commitment to family is displayed through our generosity in Secret Santa and in The Giving Tree which sponsors children in the YMCA's day camp. The beneficiaries of these charitable endeavors are in dire need of parental time, resources and love. We are their benefactors. In doing so, we plant the seeds of benevolence and generosity in our own children with the faith that our offspring will return this love to others, to their future children, and the future children of their community. It is this faith which continues the sacred circle of the family.

Our members truly know the meaning of family and what it takes to keep that circle whole and sacred. I am proud of what I see. I am proud of our Federation's continued commitment to family. I am proud of each and every one of you.

A Blessed Christmas to you all.

Federation Chief Keokuk (John Lorenzen)