

A tip or two from Chief Keokuk

MEANINGFUL TRIBAL PROPERTY

My Guides' Tribe, the Arapaho, has a heritage of Tribal Property. We attempt to keep property up-to-date. Occasionally we rummage through our property boxes and take out personalized crafts which belong to little braves who have made passage. We then deliver those old bits of Tribal Property to their former little brave owners. On occasion this has meant delivering it to a little brave now in High School, or mailing an old item to an out-of-state address. You'd be surprised how delighted the recipients are. That little piece of personalized Tribal Property is now a sentimental bit of Indian Guide archeology; a piece of childhood well spent with dad.

So, clean out those tribal property boxes, deliver the old personalized stuff to its rightful owners. You'll make somebody's day.

Then look at your current Tribal Property. Is it meaningful and relevant to the kids and dads in your tribe? Does it reflect who is currently in your tribe? Are the Indian names of Tribal Members, both dad and child, displayed on Tribal Property?

If your property looks shabby, give it a coat of paint. Keep your Tribal Property looking fresh, up-to date, and color coordinated. Huh? Color coordinated?! Yup! If its color coordinated, Tribal Property really looks great. Color is fun. Think outside the usual choices. The kids will love it.

But to keep Tribal Property lookin' good, you enter a place foreign to most of us: the world of Crafts. To that end, here is a Keokuk Tip that was published in November 2001. It's an oldie, but a goodie...

ARE YOU CRAFT IMPAIRED ?

When it's your turn to host a meeting, does your stomach flip at the thought of a craft? Stuck for a good idea? Whatever you do, don't hand this off to your wife. (Disturbs domestic tranquility.) Do it yourself. Guides and Princesses are for your involvement. Here's help:

The Creative Door 246-1632 (on Burlington Avenue, just east of Kirshbaum's Bakery)

For hands-on expertise, personal attention and solid advice, visit the Creative Door. Tell them you're hosting a meeting and have no idea what to do for a craft. They are familiar with this problem and will be happy to help you with ideas. The store is packed with tons of craft supplies. You'll probably leave there with a fun, do-able project.

CraftKits 217-352-2552 or craftkits.com

This is a mom and pop company, located in Champaign, Illinois. But they offer a large variety of just Native American Crafts. Great stuff that fits right into our program! Crafts area sold, and priced, in 4 packs or 8 packs. They are easy Native American projects. If you have questions, they can give you fairly detailed advice. But plan ahead and allow time for shipping.

Oriental Trading Company www.orientaltrading.com

If walking into a craft store threatens your masculinity, then visit this web site and click on "crafts." There is lots of stuff, but its best suited for Princesses. A good tactic is to order a catalog, browse through it, and get some ideas.

Have fun crafting while you and your children create Meaningful Tribal Property.

--Chief Keokuk
(John Lorenzen)