



# Smoke Signals

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## *On, Wisconsin: Time Running Out for Trailblazer Winter Campout at Camp Gray*

The Trailblazer winter campout is scheduled for January 20-22 at Camp Gray in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. This camp, located 45 miles from Madison, right by the Wisconsin Dells, is a new camp for the Trailblazers, but it features a number of exciting amenities, including cross-country skiing and an on-site gym for late-night basketball games! Downhill skiing at Cascade Mountain will be offered on Saturday and Sunday of the weekend, and an indoor water park on Sunday at the Dells will give everyone the chance to rest and relax before heading back home.

Time is short (or will be when this edition hits your door), so check out the enclosed flyer and make sure to reserve your spot today!

### Native American Facts

If you've ever been to a Longhouse meeting, you know that sometimes Chief Keokuk confuses the Mohican tribe with the Mohegan tribe. Well, he's not the only one!

Check out page 2 for details.

## *Tradin' Paint With the Sandpainter—Sign Up for Pinewood Derby Patch Design Contest*

As you all know, the annual Pinewood Derby, held in March every year, is the most fun you can have with cars this side of Daytona! This year, Sandpainter Scott Denton is asking for help from the Princesses, Guides, and Trailblazers to design the Federation Patch that will be distributed on race day. Use the enclosed entry form and send your entries in today! And be sure to check in next month for more details on Pinewood Derby Day!

### NEXT LONGHOUSE

January 9, 2006 (Note the date: one week later due to the holiday)

Board and Nation Chiefs	7:00 PM
Tribal Chiefs	8:15 PM



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



## ***Sue Says Hi—Time to Doze With the Dinos***

There's still time to make your reservations for Dozin' With the Dinos on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Field Museum. The outing is limited to the first 300, so as always, be sure to get your reservations in early—the slots are filling up fast! The enclosed flyer has all the requisite information, including a parking pass, which is VERY important for you to print out and have handy when you arrive. Give Nation Chief Tom Estey a call if you have questions.

## ***The Sacred Circle of Family . . .***

If you'll indulge an old Smoke Signals chief for a moment . . . I'm sure a number of you have faced situations similar to the one I found myself in recently. As a new member of a middle management team (talk about a dreaded spot to be in, but still), I was expected to attend a social function at the office, but it fell on the same evening as my daughter's band concert. In addition, her grandparents were briefly in town, and would only have the opportunity to see my kids that evening. Well, I'm as upwardly mobile as the next guy, so I thought, heck, I'll do both—make a token appearance at the function, and still make it home for the concert.

Then my wife said something interesting to me—"What if it snows?" Good point, since my office is 30 miles north. But more importantly, it didn't take me long to realize that, while I could show up at the work gathering and pretend that it mattered, what really matters, in the end, is being there for your family when they need you. So, the next time a Nation Chief speaks about "the sacred circle of family" at a camp ceremony, keep that in mind, dads. Did I make a sacrifice? Sure, but what a small one to make.



### **Native American Facts**

In his famous book "Last of the Mohicans," James Fenimore Cooper actually confused the Mohicans with the Mohegans, giving several of the characters Mohegan names and placing their homeland in Mohegan territory. The Mohegans were native to southern New England, particularly Connecticut, while the Mohicans lived in New York. Incidentally, "Mohican" is actually an alternative spelling for the tribe, who were commonly called the "Mahican" tribe.

*Source: [www.geocities.com/bigorrin/mohican\\_kids](http://www.geocities.com/bigorrin/mohican_kids)*

**Federation Website: [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org)**

**Log on and check it out!**