



# *Smoke Signals*

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## ***TB Spring Campout Is at LOMC***

The bucolic ponds and trails of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, Illinois will once again be the setting for the Trailblazers' spring campout on May 19-21. Be sure to arrive early Friday evening to enjoy a scenic cruise on the "Pride of Oregon," but don't forget to save some energy for horseback riding or paintball on Saturday afternoon, and a ton of fun and games at a fitness and recreation center later that evening. This always-popular event sells out fast, so you'll want to be sure to register well before the May 1 drop-dead date. The enclosed flyer has all the details, and waiver forms for paintball and horseback riding are available on the Federation website, [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org).

### Native American Facts

This month's fact comes from Princess alum (and your Smoke Signals Chief's favorite oldest daughter) Bridget Foley. Bridget was curious to know how her old tribe, the Cheyenne, got its name. See page 3 for details.

## ***And Speaking of Paintball . . .***

Challenge Park Extreme in Joliet is just a short jaunt for any Federation members 10 years and up who want to try their hand at an exciting afternoon of Paintball! This Federation event, scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from noon to 5PM, is a favorite for veterans and beginners alike. You're sure to find a course and skill level to your liking. Nation Chief Eric Sundstrom is in charge of this event, and is available to answer your questions at the phone numbers and e-mail listed on the enclosed flyer. Deadline for registration is April 14<sup>th</sup>, and remember to allow about a half-hour to complete the necessary waivers and other registration forms.

## ***Still Looking for Sponsors for Golf Outing***

Nation Chief Alan Rodriguez still has plenty of slots for sponsors (not to mention golfers!) for the annual Federation golf outing on June 16 at Flagg Creek. Sponsorships range from \$50 to \$250, and, let's face it, guys, they represent a great opportunity to highlight your business in front of a highly desirable demographic! Give Alan a call, or see the flyer for more details!

# *Happy Easter*



## ***So, What ARE Those Things In Your Kid's Desk?***

OK, maybe you're not all like me, but I can't remember the last time I helped my girls clean out their desks and craft drawers. Well, now, thanks to a great new suggestion by Illini members Tom Estey and Steve Kruchko, there's no longer any excuse to avoid a little spring cleaning—and you can earn honor tribe points in the process!! **"Project Clean Your Desk"** gathers used school supplies for distribution to school children in Nicaragua. How about that—a Tribal Civic Project for the world community. Visit [www.quixote.org/quest/](http://www.quixote.org/quest/) entitled "Quest For Peace;" click on "Project Clean Your Desk," and all the info you need to get started is right there!

## ***Giving Tree is Set for Spring Campouts***

For the fifth consecutive year, the Prairie Trail Federation is sponsoring the Giving Tree program. As you all no doubt remember, the program is designed to raise funds for underprivileged youth right in our Federation community to spend a part of their summer taking advantage of the RichPort Y's summer camp program. Some kids spend a week in the program, others spend all summer, but all are enriched by the variety of indoor and outdoor activities offered by the Y.

Envelopes will be available at your spring campouts, so please be sure to discuss the program at your next tribal meeting and be prepared to give generously. Last year, we had 60 tribes participating, but c'mon, guys, there are almost 100 Princess and Guide Tribes in the Federation, so why can't we bump that number up a bit? There are a number of incentives for generous giving, including a free swim or skate party at the Y for tribes marshalling \$2000 or more in contributions. And don't forget—Trailblazers are also encouraged to participate. Nation Chief John Economou has done a fantastic job of turning this program into perhaps the shiniest star in our constellation of service to community, and he's available as always to answer your questions. More information is available in this edition, and on [yigp.org](http://yigp.org).

### **NEXT LONGHOUSE**

April 3, 2006

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



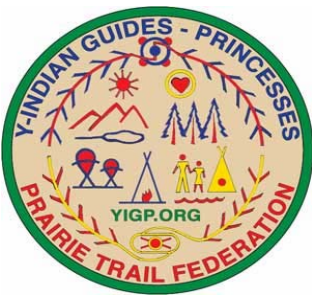
## ***Sox Season Tix Hard to Come By??***

Well, yeah, a world championship will do that. Fortunately, the Federation has a fun and inexpensive alternative—our annual outing to the Kane County Cougars!! Mark your calendars for June 3 (if you can slot it next to the Pet Parade) and make sure that you get your tickets early. Nation Chiefs John Kepich and Kevin Sedlack have all of the bases covered—there's even dessert this year! May 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline—the enclosed flyer has all the info.

## ***No Experience Necessary—Enthusiasm a Plus!***

At the March Longhouse meeting, we learned (*much* to the Board's chagrin) that our venerable Sand Painter, Broken Scalpel (a/k/a Scott Denton) will be handing in his easel after this program year ends. It would be impossible to do justice to the tireless service that Scott has rendered to the Federation in managing the patches and other tangible symbols that the children (and heck, yeah, the dads, too!) consider to be such an integral part of our experience. Scott is looking for an apprentice to carry the torch going forward, so, all of you dads with an eye for design and color, we're asking you to step up and take on the responsibility.

And, as long as I'm on the soap box—the Federation is always looking for new Nation Chiefs to help in organizing, running, and improving the program. A number of Board members (including your intrepid Smoke Signals Chief) have just a year to go after this one, and, while we have some replacements lined up among our current Nation Chief roster, we need to continue to keep the leadership pipeline moving. Please take a moment to think about what this program has meant to your kids, and what it has meant to you, and consider volunteering your time to help out. You'll work with the finest group of men I've ever known, and you'll have fun, too!!



### **Native American Facts**

The Cheyenne Tribe's modern name comes from the Dakota Sioux name for the tribe, *Šahiyenan*. That may have been a diminutive form of the Sioux name for the related Cree people. In their own language, the Cheyenne call themselves Tsitsistas, "the people."

*Source: [http://www.geocities.com/bigorrin/cheyenne\\_kids.htm/](http://www.geocities.com/bigorrin/cheyenne_kids.htm/)*

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

**Log on and check it out!**