



# Smoke Signals

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## *Spring Has Sprung . . .*

. . . and with it comes a host of activities for the Prairie Trail Federation. As always, these events are outlined in detail in the paragraphs to follow, but let's start this month by making an impassioned pitch for the Giving Tree program.

As we noted last time around, the Giving Tree is the Federation's largest charity project, raising money to permit the less fortunate kids of our community to spend some quality time in the RichPort Y's summer camp program. We are the single largest sponsor of this program in the area, and the Y has come to depend on us for our generosity. They have supported the aims and goals of our Federation for years, and I can't think of a better way to show our appreciation for that than to help them to the fullest extent possible in this worthwhile endeavor. So, when you're at camp, and your Nation Chief makes his pitch for the Giving Tree, please be generous. It's all about service and commitment to others, right? So, let's practice what we preach!

## *Slots Still Available for Trailblazers at LOMC*

May 19-21 are the dates for the spring Trailblazers campout at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon. If the gods of second class mail are good to us, you should receive this edition before the May 1 registration deadline, but even if it's a few days after that, give Nation Chief Dave Hight a call at the number on the attached flyer if you're interested (no guarantees, but you never know). There are going to be scads of cool activities for everyone to enjoy, so be sure to reserve your spot today. And don't forget that there are waiver forms for horseback riding and paintball on the Federation website [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org).

### NEXT LONGHOUSE

May 1, 2006

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



### Native American Facts

Did you know that, many years ago, there were Indian YMCAs in the United States? What Native American doctor and writer was responsible for the establishment of these Y's? See page 2 for the answer.

## ***Federation “Masters” the Art of Golf***

We’re still looking for sponsors and golfers for the golf outing at Flagg Creek on June 16<sup>th</sup>. OK, so Flagg Creek isn’t exactly Augusta—it’s still plenty challenging for the average Federation hacker, and it’s going to be a blast for everyone who comes! The enclosed flyer has all the information you need to get your foursome in line, and Nation Chief Alan Rodriguez is more than happy to answer your questions. *Fore!*

## ***Where’s My Cabin? You’re Kidding, Right??***

I suppose that our genetic code is such that we have a hard time asking for any sort of direction, but c’mon, guys, in these days of Google and MapQuest, we’ve all ceded part of that “I know danged well where I’m going” mentality, right? OK, maybe not—but if you have, thanks to the efforts of our Web Weavers, Eric Wahlstrom and Bill Tippereiter, we’ve got maps of virtually all of the camps that you go to with your Princesses and Guides. So, if you’re trying to get your bearings before you head off to your next campout, log on to [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org) and download the camp map of your choice. If you head out on Friday night, trust me, you’ll be glad you did!



## ***Don’t Forget—Cougars are on June 3***

After you’re “Pet Parade”-ed out, make plans to take the trek to Kane County for the annual Cougars family outing on June 3. This event is always a giant hit with young and old alike, and we’ve got our usual heavy hitting lineup all set for this year, complete with hot dogs, brats, ice cream, and fun and exciting activities for the whole family. The kids

will run the bases so much that they’ll sleep all the way home!! Nation Chiefs John Kepich and Kevin Sedlack always do a great job of making sure that everyone has a great time in the fun and sun, so get your tickets now!



### **Native American Facts**

Charles Alexander Eastman was the Santee Dakota physician and writer who was responsible for the establishment of Indian YMCAs in the United States. His Native American name was “Ohiyesa,” and he was also instrumental in the founding of the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls.

Source:

<http://members.aol.com/alicebeard/campfire/ohiyesa.html>