



# Smoke Signals

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## ***Fellowship Night Fast Approaching!***

The third annual Dad's NCAA Fellowship Night is set for Friday, March 16, at the Village Club of Western Springs, starting at 5:00 PM. Nation Chief Andy Signa has turned this event into our most popular, and lucrative, event of the year. There will be raffles, prizes, excellent food, and for all of you itinerant gamblers, card games (including Texas Hold'em tournaments, for the Federation's next Doyle Brunson). All this for \$30, and all of the proceeds go toward two wonderful causes: (1) defraying our campout and event expenses; and way more importantly, (2) allowing us to continue our philanthropic mission of serving the community. Could there be a more painless way of doing the right thing? I don't think so. And not only that, but the Irish might actually make it this year!! So, come on out and have some fun!

### **Native American Facts**

Have you ever heard of Navajo blankets? The Navajo were known as one of the most creative of all tribes, but their blankets were never "perfect." Why would that be? Check out the back for details.

## ***WaterWorks on February 25***

OK, as I write this, it's been a very mild winter. [The beauty of second class mail is that this statement could come back to haunt me, big time.] So maybe you haven't gotten the thought of the Field Club, or the Western Springs pool, or whatever your summer venue, out of your head yet. But trust me, by the end of the month, you're going to be desperate for an escape to the water! And the Federation has the antidote—a trip to the Schaumburg WaterWorks on Saturday, February 25. Nation Chief John Keeley is still accepting reservations for the outing, which begins at 6:00 PM. The Schaumburg facility is, by all accounts, the most elaborate indoor water park in the state, and it's a lot closer than the Dells, so go for it!!



### **NEXT LONGHOUSE**

February 5, 2006

Board and Nation Chiefs 7:00 PM

Tribal Chiefs 8:15 PM

**LONGHOUSE WILL MOVE TO THE  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH IN MARCH**

# Remember our Presidents

## *Calling All Cars—Pinewood Derby is on March 11*

The annual Pinewood Derby is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, beginning at noon. Cars will be available at the February and March Longhouse meetings, so we're asking all tribal chiefs to make sure that they get their orders in and pick up the cars for their tribes. As usual, there is a funny car and custom car (both adult-assisted and child-only) competition, and trophies will be awarded in each grade division, along with Trailblazers. Nation Chief Larry Wilson is running the show, with the able assistance of Mike Klusendorf, and they could use some help, so don't be shy about volunteering! The enclosed flyer has all of the details. Don't miss it!!

## *All Hail the Huron!*

In mid-December, members of the Huron Guides tribe delivered food boxes to the elderly for Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. Each year Mercy Hospital delivers over 1000 food boxes to the elderly on the east side of the city. The boxes are either donated by individual families and groups or purchased by Mercy volunteers from cash donations. Each box contains the basic staples as well as some poultry and perishables to help make the holidays a little easier for these unfortunate people. Guides Nation Chief John Economou reports that the project was a real eye opener for the boys and made them appreciate what they have even more. Kudos to the Huron for their efforts!



### Native American Facts

The loomed wool blankets of the Navajo were the finest in the world, patterned in geometric designs, and so tightly woven that they could hold water when a canteen was unavailable. But even today, the Navajo leave imperfections in their blankets, usually a thread dangling from the border. A definitive ending cramped the spirit of the creator and sapped the life from the art. The Navajo call this the "spirit outlet."

Source: *Blood and Thunder*, by Hampton Sides, Doubleday, c. 2006