



Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Prairie Trail Federation
December 2007

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Yah, hey. Beauty Schedule, eh?

As I read over all of the upcoming events on this page, I'm struck by how, well, *Canadian* it all sounds...

Federation Family Ice Skating Party, Sunday, January 6th

See the attached flyer for the details of this annual event, which will be held at the Darien Sportsplex. The \$5 admission **includes skate rental!** Nation Chief Neil Kirby, Family Skate planner and a fellow Illini, is hoping for this event to double as a Rose Bowl Victory Party.

Skiing with the Trailblazers at the Winter Campout

January 18-20, Camp Gray, Reedsburg, Wisconsin. Ski beautiful **Cascade Mountain**, and enjoy the waterpark facilities at the **Kalahari Lodge** in nearby Wisconsin Dells. See the enclosed flyer for details and remember: **All 4th grade and above Guides and Princesses have a dual membership in the Trailblazer program!**

Skiing with the Trailblazers, part deux...

The Trailblazers will be making their annual pilgrimage to **Sunburst Ski Area**, February 2nd. Nation Chiefs Tony Nilles and Kevin Jelley do a terrific job with this event, from the fully-equipped motorcoach transportation to the handling of the logistics. Whether you're a skier, boarder, tuber, or even a reclining edible tuber (that's a couch potato who sits in the lodge bar all day), this event is for you!

Guide and Princess Winter Campouts...

Your Nation Chiefs have been busy adding camps and bed space, trying to accommodate the increasing demand for this winter's campouts! An updated schedule is enclosed, as there have been several recent modifications.

Be prepared for a weekend of sledding, skating, snowmen and lots and lots of hot cocoa!

Native Americans and Winter Solstice

The annual time period surrounding the Winter Solstice, December 21, is a time of deep spiritual meaning in virtually every culture and religion, including many Native American cultures.

See reverse side for more information.

Patch Design Contest Winners! (drum roll please)

- Winter Campout Patch winner is **Jackie Cordell** of the **Comanche Princesses**
- Pinewood Derby Patch winner (Boys) is **Kevin Quinn** of the **Crow Guides**
- Pinewood Derby Patch winners (Girls) are the team of **Jenny & Josie Medema** of the **Illini Princesses**

A Big How How to our Champion Artists! And, don't forget to look for their handiwork, coming soon to a vest near you!

And now, for something completely different...

Here is an event that the Prairie Trail Federation has never done before:

Chicago Storm Indoor Soccer

The date is February 23rd, 7pm, at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates. Check out the flyer link on our web site, www.yigp.org, or check out the Storm's web site, www.chicagostorm.net.

And sign up soon, because if we get 150 attendees by January 31st, we will all receive a special gift from the team!

Mark Your Calendars for the Pinewood Derby

The annual Pinewood Derby is scheduled for March 9, 2008. You don't want to miss this event in its new location! Nation Chiefs Larry Wilson and Mike Kluesendorf have big big plans for this year.

But, since I have run out of room in this month's newsletter, you'll have to wait until next month.

Until then...

Happy Holidays from the Prairie Trail Federation!!!

Winter Solstice in Native American Tribes

Each year, as the sun continued its Southern migration, resulting in shorter and shorter days, primitive cultures worried that the sun would eventually fall and never return. After the Solstice, when the sun began its Northern trek, resulting in longer days and, eventually, warmer weather, they rejoiced. Native cultures viewed this as a sign of hope and renewal, and that the Great Spirit will see them through the cold winter months to the next growing season. Tribes such as the Pueblo and Hopi continue this "celebration of rebirth" with celebratory feasts, dances, and the making and planting of prayer sticks.