



# Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Prairie Trail Federation  
Summer 2007

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## Greetings from the New Smoke Signals Editor...and the first of many plugs for the web site!

Hello everyone, and welcome to another year with the Prairie Trail Federation. Your Nation Chiefs have been hard at work this summer, planning the upcoming year. My name is Grinding Owl, the new Smoke Signals Editor, and I am excited to share these plans with you.

### Native American Facts

Did you know that the eagle seal on the back of a dollar bill was retrofitted from an Iroquois Nation Seal dating back to the 1600s?  
See page 2 for details.

But first, I would like to remind you that while we try our best to gather, copy, sort, and send it through snail mail in a timely manner, some of this publication's information is obsolete before it hits your mailbox. Not to worry. Our web site, [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org), is there for you, 24/7, with up-to-date information on campouts, activities, honor points, and lots of other stuff! That's [www.yigp.org](http://www.yigp.org). Bookmark it today!

## A Post-Game Wrap-up of the 2006-07 Season...

Random notes on a few pending items and late-season Federation events:

### **Federation Golf Outing June, 8, Flagg Creek**

Nation Chief Alan Rodriguez called it, "A great time for golfers of all skill levels." Not sure what that means, but everyone had a great time, and all proceeds will help subsidize future Federation events. Thanks, Alan!

### **La Grange Pet Parade June 2**

The Federation flatbed float held a very enthusiastic bunch of Guides, Princesses, and Trailblazers, with lots of dads, bikes, pets, and 76 trombones right behind! Many tribes even sponsored their own float. In short: we were quite the presence!

### **Kane County Cougars Game, June 2**

In the words of Nation Chief George Rosicky, "An All-American Day" – Baseball, hot dogs, cold drinks, and fireworks!

### **The Giving Tree**

We have already collected over \$21,000, and checks are still trickling in. The deadline for contributions is the August Longhouse meeting. See attached flyer.

### **Honor Tribes**

We would like to take a moment to congratulate the following tribes for achieving Honor Tribe status this past year. These tribes amassed at least 1600 honor points by participating in various tribal, Federation, and community activities, and also participated in at least 3 civic activities. This list is current as of June 5, 2007:

**Guides:** Arapaho, Big Oak, Chickasaw, Chippewa, Crow, Huron, Illini, Mohican, Oglala Sioux, Omaha, Sauk Fox, Seminole, Seneca, Shawnee, and Teton.

**Princesses:** Blackhawk, Deyo, Hopi, Illini, Kachina, Miami, Mighty Oak, Oglala, Pawnee, Pueblo, Sauk, Seneca, Teton, Tonto, and Wind River.

**Congratulations, and thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm.**

🎵 I Want to Ride My Bicycle, I Want to Ride My Bike...🎵

On Sunday, September 9, bring the whole family out to Brezina Woods for the annual **Federation Bike Hike and Picnic** (see enclosed flyer). Or, better yet, depending on your location and stamina, bike on over. From 12-3pm you can enjoy food, games, raffles, a live band, and our friend, Native American folklorist *John Jordan*.

Fall Campouts...Already?? (Yes; already).

**Trailblazers** will be kicking off the year at *Camp Tecumseh*, September 7-9<sup>th</sup> (see attached flyer). Not only will you have access to the many fine amenities at Tecumseh, you have the option of canoeing, golfing, bowling, attending a drive-in movie, and much more. This is an action-packed weekend that will leave you exhausted, yet hungry for the next Trailblazer event!

**Indian Guides and Princess** campout schedules are, literally, hot off the presses. While there may be some “tweaking” to balance out numbers and conflicts, we are pretty well set. Thanks to the many families who have already registered for the year. Having concrete tribal counts really, *really* helps in scheduling.

Patches, We’ve Got Patches!

Federation Sandpainter Paul DiVittorio would like to remind everyone that he has an impressive inventory of patches from our Federation’s history. Check out the web site for a link to a complete listing of the patch inventory.

What Makes a Federation Grow?

Recruiting. Networking. **Pow Wows!** Nation Chief Marv Baldwin will be hosting Pow Wows on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be games, refreshments, tribal property displays, and a (Powerpoint?) presentation. If your tribe would like to help (for Honor Points, of course), e-mail Marv at [marv@foodsresourcebank.org](mailto:marv@foodsresourcebank.org).

And, hey, while we’re on the subject, this is the time of year for recruiting. Are there any kindergartners on your block? Has a new family moved to the area? Invite them to join, or send them to a Pow Wow. This is such a great program that we should share it whenever possible.

**Native American Facts**

The original seal had the eagle holding 6 arrows to represent the 6 Nations of the Iroquois. The eagle on our currency is holding 13 arrows to represent the 13 colonies. Of course, the Iroquois design did not include the “E Pluribus Unum” banner.

(source: <http://aboriginalrights.suite101.com/>)

