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Smoke Signals

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By Grinding Owl (Doug Ashburn - Seneca Princesses) (708)482-3531 e-mail: ashburns@sbcglobal.net

I Love a Parade!!!

We end the year in style here at the Prairie Trail Federation, with our participation in the annual **La Grange Pet Parade**, May 31st. Come join the Federation float (location TBA), or, do as many of our tribes do and enter your own float!

To learn more about times, parade routes, registering a tribal float, etc, go to www.lgpetparade.org. This year's theme is **Clowns on Parade**. Given what I know of Federation Dads, you can pretty much come as you are!

Ending the Year in Style, part II

If you attended the Pinewood Derby or the Men's Fellowship Night, you certainly heard about our final fundraiser of the year, the **Prairie Trail Federation Golf Outing**, Friday, June 13th, at Flag Creek Golf Course. We welcome golfers of all skill levels (Really!!), and we'll give you golf, dinner, 3 hours of open bar, and raffles for the incredible price of \$52 (\$55 after May 1st).

Can't attend but would like to help anyway? There are several donation and hole sponsorship opportunities. See the enclosed flyer and contact Mr. Rodriquez today!

Campouts!!!

Spring Campout season is in high gear with the vast majority of our **Guide and Princess** tribes attending camp between now and early May. Each camp has its own unique mix of amenities, but they are all great, especially now that we're finally getting some spring weather!

Trailblazers will be heading to Oregon, IL for an action-packed weekend of swimming, horseback riding, paintball, laser tag, a ride on a paddlewheeler, and more. For more information on camps, or, for that matter, any federation information, see us on the web at www.yigp.org. Remember: 4th grade Guides and Princesses are eligible!

Native American Facts

When we think of Native American housing, we think of the traditional leather teepee. But is this accurate? What kinds of houses did Native Americans live in?

See reverse side for more

And the Tree was Happy...

While you're at your Spring Campout, one of your Nation Chiefs will be giving a brief presentation on the YMCA's **Giving Tree** project, a fund-raising drive to help families in need pay for summer youth day camp. Federation tribes have been extremely generous in our seven years' participation; last year we contributed almost \$24,000.

Please read the enclosed flyer, and consider organizing a fund drive within your tribe. Remember: participating tribes may count it as a Civic Activity when calculating Honor Point status.

Did Someone Say "Honor Points?"

It is officially "crunch time." If you haven't quite gotten to the 1600 point threshold, and you really want the nifty patch and chevron, you better get crankin'! To check your tribe's tally, or to check the requirements for Honor Tribe status, follow the link on the web site (What's that web address, again?).

Rumor has it, by the way, that we may revive an old PTF tradition of letting honor tribes get cabin priority, and to go through the cafeteria line first at campouts. Hmmm...

Let's Hear it for Spontaneity!

With literally minutes to go until press time, we have word of a newly-planned Federation outing. On Monday, June 9th, 7pm, we will be going to see the DuPage Dragons. They are a team out of Naperville, and they play in the CIGL. This is a league made up of college players who, in preparation for the "bigs" use wooden bats and practice playing before real spectators. The games are a bargain; they're a blast; and we will be there on June 9th. Details are forthcoming but, in the meantime, check out the Dragons' web site at www.dupagedragons.com.

April showers bring May flowers. What do Mayflowers bring?

Native American Facts

Each Native American tribe needed a type of housing that would fit their lifestyle and their climate. Tribes that moved from place to place needed houses that were portable or easy to build, while tribes that stayed in one place wanted to build houses that would last a long time. Tribes from cold areas needed houses that would protect them from the weather, while tribes in warm areas didn't have to worry about that.

(Check out the wide assortment of different Native American housing styles at: <http://www.native-languages.org/houses.htm>)

Wrong. The answer is: Allergies!

Happy Spring!!!