



# Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Prairie Trail Federation  
Summer 2008

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## Happy Late-Summer from the Prairie Trail Federation!

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but if you just received this newsletter in the mail, it means that your summer vacation is winding down. Fear not; the start of a new school year also means another year of **Indian Guides, Princesses, and Trailblazers!** Your Nation Chiefs have been hard at work this summer, planning the upcoming year. And, let me tell you, it's going to be a great one.

### **But, first, please register for the 2008-09 year.**

A few weeks ago, all Federation members were sent a registration form for the upcoming year. If you filled out this form, you're good to go. In case you have lost the form, we have enclosed another one in this month's newsletter. Timely registration helps immensely with our planning process, especially in organizing the numerous camps.

## My Favorite Event of the Year

As author of the monthly *Smoke Signals*, I am supposed to be a cheerleader for all Federation events, and to not play favorites. Can't do it. I have always been partial to the annual **Prairie Trail Federation Bike Hike and Picnic**, Sunday, Sept. 7th, 12-3pm, at Brezina Woods Grove #2. At this **family event**, there will be lots of food, prizes, and entertainment, including a Native American presentation. Participants are encouraged to use the Salt Creek Bike Trail, which runs right through Brezina Woods. Of course, there will be a nifty patch waiting for you. *Kick off the season in style!*

## We're Looking for a Few Good Men...plus their Sons and Daughters!

While our numbers seem to grow every year, we are always open to new members and even new tribes. Every September we host two **Pow Wows**, which are informational nights designed to attract and educate potential members. We're still working out the final details, like date, time, and place... but all details will be posted to our web site really soon. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend. Also, if your tribe is looking to earn some Civic Activity points, consider volunteering at one of our Pow Wows, answering questions about our program, showing off your tribal property, etc.

## “Fall Campouts already? Surely You Can’t be Serious!”

The fall season is approaching, sooner than we care to admit. Your Nation Chiefs have been working overtime to finalize our campout schedule. When school begins in a few weeks, Fall Campouts begin almost immediately.

### **Indian Guides and Princesses:**

See the enclosed campout schedule for your tribe’s assigned location and date.

### **Trailblazers:**

The Trailblazer Fall Campout will be at Camp Tecumseh, on the weekend of September 5-7. The action is fast, furious, and virtually nonstop. In addition to Tecumseh’s many amenities, we have planned a canoe trip, golf outing and much, much more! See the enclosed flyer/sign-up sheet. **Remember: All 4<sup>th</sup>-grade-and-above Guides and Princesses have a dual membership in the Trailblazer program.**

And, don’t call me “Shirley.”

## “Your Honor, Your Honor...”

As of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 41 Guide and Princess tribes have achieved Honor Tribe status for the 2007-2008 year. Congratulations to the following tribes:

**Guides:** Arapaho, Beaver, Big Oak, Chickasaw, Chippewa, Crow, Dakota, Huron, Illini, Iroquois, Kee-Wah-Sheena, Keewaydin, Mascouten, Miami, Mohegan, Mohican, Ojibwa, Paiute, Sauk Fox, Seminole, Seneca, Teton, and Yazoo.

**Princesses:** Buffalo, Chippewa, Deyo, Hiawatha, Hopi, Illini, Kachina, Miami, Mohegan, Ogalala, Pawnee, Pueblo, Sauk, Seneca, Shoshone, Sioux, Teton, and Wind River.

To achieve Honor Tribe status, a tribe must participate in 3 civic activities, and earn at least 1600 honor points. Points are awarded for participation in campouts, Federation events and meetings. Details can be found on our web site.

## *Have You Sent in Your Registration for the 2008-09 Season???*

### NEXT LONGHOUSE

**August 25, 2008**

**Board and Nation Chiefs 7:00**

PM

**Tribal Chiefs 8:15**

PM

Location: First United Methodist  
Church of La Grange