



Smoke Signals

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It was a Lovely Summer, but...

...It's over. Get back to school. And work. And routines. But, here is a bit of good news. Fall means another exciting year of:

Indian Guides, Princesses, and Trailblazers!!!

New this year: The Aim of the Month

In previous years, this text box and its partner on the back page featured fun Native American facts and trivia. This year, I'm going to try something different.

Each month, one of our 6 Aims will be presented and discussed. It is hoped that many of you will use this as a guide to help your little braves understand what the Prairie Trail Federation is all about!

Interested? Flip to the back page to see more.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 2008-09 Prairie Trail Federation Guide, Princess, and Trailblazer programs are well underway.

- The annual Bike Hike and Picnic was held on September 7th. Brezina Woods was the location for an afternoon of biking fun, Native American history, raffles, games, live music, and lots of free food. Big "How How" to Nation Chiefs Dave Miller and Chris Breakey for coordinating this event!
- Guide and Princess Fall Campouts are also underway. We have enclosed a copy of the Campout Schedule for your perusal.
- Last weekend, the Trailblazers visited Camp Tecumseh, with its many wonderful activities. They also sampled the night life in nearby Monticello, with its bowling alley, go-cart track, and drive-in theater. There was also a scheduled canoe trip, as well as a golf outing. Thanks to Nation Chief John Gosiewski for running the campout again this year!

***Special Note regarding Trailblazers:**

All 4th graders in our Guide and Princess programs have a dual membership in the Trailblazer program. Don't worry; there are many more Trailblazer events coming your way! Speaking of which, we have enclosed an advance flyer for the Trailblazer Winter Campout, to be held this year at the beautiful **Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells!**

An Evening with the Blackhawks!!!

In what can only be called a "Stop the presses!" moment, we just added a Federation family event. On Sunday, November 16 at 6pm, we will be attending an NHL game between the Detroit Red Wings and your Chicago Blackhawks! The cost is only \$24.50 per ticket. To reserve, e-mail Chris Breakey at chris@makeyourdreamhome.com, or call him at (708) 269-4665. You will also be entered into a **very, very special raffle!** Stay tuned!

Attention all Artists!

Every month, we enclose a Native American-themed picture. We encourage your sons and daughters to color it and send it in for judging in our **Monthly Coloring Contest**. Each month's winner will receive a nifty patch to sew onto his or her vest, and a certificate of achievement, to be hung on the fridge (or framed and hung in the living room). **Make it snazzy!**

“What’s this Honor Tribe stuff I heard about?...”

I’m glad you asked. In the words of Honor Point Chief Michael Blackburn, *“The whole idea of achieving honor status is to promote motivation and participation within the tribe and to instill a sense of community awareness and civic duty among our young guides and princesses.”*

Terrific goals to aspire to, don’t you think? The beauty of it is that the requirements aren’t particularly onerous. They’re fun, actually. Here’s what you do:

- **Acquire a minimum of 1600 Honor Points.** Just as they say about life, 90% of points are awarded “just for showing up”, at things like Longhouse meetings, Federation events, campouts, special tribal meetings, etc.
- **Perform 3 Civic Activities.** Secret Santa and Giving Tree each count as one, so if you participate in them you only need one more. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or food pantry. Organize a park clean-up. Host a car wash or lemonade stand for a charity. You name it!
- **Send your point and Civic Activity totals to Mr. Blackburn at honor.points@yigp.org or mdblackburn@comcast.net.**

For more information, go to the web site, www.yigp.org, and follow the link to “Honor Tribe Reporting.”

The Six Aims and our Program’s Purpose

The stated purpose of the Y-Indian Guide and Princess programs is to foster understanding and companionship between father and child. We promise to be “Pals Forever” (Guides) and “Friends Always” (Princesses). We also pledge *“through friendly service to each other, our family, our tribe, and our community, to seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Spirit.”*

We accomplish this by employing the **Six Aims**, or goals, of the program.

Next Month: Aim #1, **To be clean in body and pure in heart.**

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

(Timely registration is the key to organized, well-structured campouts and Federation activities. Please do your part and help us help you).