



Smoke Signals

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

Your Generosity Knows no Bounds...

The Federation's participation in this year's Community Nurse Health Association's **Secret Santa** program broke a new record! At the last count, we had filled 233 bags with clothing, winter necessities, toys, books, and more. These children of the working poor in our community will have a Merry Christmas because of your generosity. Big thanks go out to Nation Chief Jeff Sides, the first-time coordinator. And, of course, thank you all for your generosity!

Federation Family Ice Skating Party

See the attached flyer for the details of this annual event, which will be held at the Darien Sportsplex, on Sunday, January 4th, 2009, from 2-4pm. The \$5 admission **includes skate rental!** This will be a great way to wrap up the winter break!

Aim of the Month #3

“To love the Sacred Circle of my Family.”

See reverse side for more information.

Hit the Slopes!!!

The Trailblazers will be making their annual pilgrimage to **Sunburst Ski Area**, February 7th. Nation Chief Tony Nilles does a terrific job with this event, from the fully-equipped motorcoach transportation (with onboard movies and bathroom!!), to the handling of the logistics like lift tickets and rentals. 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!

Coloring Contest Corner

Congrats to this month's Coloring Contest winners: **Ben Smiley** of the Huron Guides and **Carlie Merola** (Little Pony) of the Kachina Princesses. *A contest tip from the coordinator – when you receive your Smoke Signals in the mail, color the picture and send it in right away. The deadline each month is when we prepare the following month's newsletter, which is usually the week following our Longhouse. Contest sheets are also available on our web site, www.yigp.org. Keep the artwork coming!

“Snoozeum” of Science and Industry

The mine shaft. The airplane. The train going around a mock-up of the city. The old-fashioned ice cream shop on Main Street. The submarine. Aahhh...takes me back to my childhood, when I would wish I lived at the Museum of Science and Industry. Well, now you can, for one night only, Saturday, February 28th! All the old stuff plus the newer exhibits are yours for the night. Check out the enclosed flyer for details and get your money to Mr. Klimes today. Space is limited!!!

Calling All Pyromaniacs!!!

Don't you just love all those pyrotechnics we do at the Fall and Spring Ceremonies? I know your children do! Well, here is your chance to get “up close and personal” with all the boom-booms and join the **Prairie Trail Federation Firestarters Guild**. The Firestarters set the canisters for the winds, set the logs for the fire, add accelerants, wire it up, wait for the cues, and let 'er rip!

We're looking for a few more tribes to join the guild. Firestarter Chief Marty Halm will hold a training session for you, after which you're ready to be assigned to campouts. You'll also learn that there is another industrial use for toilet paper other than for throwing into your neighbors' trees!

Aim #3: To love the sacred circle of my family

A circle is an unbroken line, a continuum. It has no beginning and no end. This is the bond that we forge as a family unit. We help each other. We look out for one another. We work together, and we have fun together. This is what makes a strong family circle.

But, there is another aspect of the sacred family circle – the intergenerational circle. This is the one that Mufasa, *The Lion King* called “The Circle of Life.” Our knowledge, wisdom, habits, and tendencies were passed to us from the sacred circle of our childhood, and we will pass it along to our children, who will one day pass it to their children. To love the sacred circle of your family is to make sure the stuff that is passed down is “the right stuff!”

***Happy Holidays from the Prairie Trail
Federation!!!***