



Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Prairie Trail Federation
July 2009

AAHHHH, the sites, sounds and smells of summer. Kids swimming. Kids playing. Mom's and Dad's keeping a close (but not too close) eye on them. Staying up late. Sleeping in late. Freedom. Fireworks. Camps. Grills. Smokers. Baseball. Summer is the time to relax and recharge. So **ENJOY**.

A few notes and reminders from the Prairie Trail Federation as we look forward to a new season:

TRAILBLAZERS UPDATE: The new season kicks off the weekend of August 28 at Camp Tecumseh. If you have been there you know it is a great camp. You have probably also seen the swimming pool and thought what fun it would be to swim. Well, the fall camp has been moved up to take advantage of the pool – which will be open this weekend. See the enclosed flyer for additional information. **ALSO** – please read the enclosed note from Dave Hight- Trailblazer Nation Chief. Very heartfelt and a must read!

PET PARADE: The Federation would like to thank everyone who attended the Pet Parade this year. We had a great turnout and lots of walkers not only with the Federation Float but with individual Tribes. The Federation Float won the 6th place Trophy – **HOW HOW!** Many thanks to Marty Halm and Prairie Path Pavers for providing the float.

REGISTRATION: If you have not done so yet we encourage you to complete and mail in your registration forms. The program registration fees will remain the same as the 08/09 year. However the camp out fees have increased modestly due in part to overall camp cost increase as well as the decision by the Federation to supply campfire wood at the camps. As you may know most of our camps are located outside the state of IL, and outside wood is not permitted in camps. The cost for Friday nights is \$16.00. The cost for Saturday/Sunday is \$50.00.

You will receive registration forms shortly. You can also find at www.yigp.org.

SUNDAY MORNING COLLECTIONS AT CAMP

It's Sunday morning at camp. You got maybe 3 hours of sleep. You're looking for the coffee, trying to wake up and shake the cobwebs out. There is a Little Princess or Brave standing in front of you with a baseball cap. "What's this for?" you ask. They respond "I don't know, my dad gave me this hat and told me to walk around and collect money."

Truth be told during the hectic pace of Sunday morning - trying to get the Little Princesses and Braves breakfast, listen to some last minute announcements, and fret that you may have to waken up the vocal cords to sing because your tribe was lucky enough to wind up with Blackcloud; we forget what the mission of our "collection" during breakfast is for. We collect for the local Special Olympics program.

The Greater La Grange YMCA acknowledges and thanks the Prairie Trail Federation's support in raising \$4,000 during the past year. Many thanks to you for participating. So the next time a little brave sticks a baseball cap in your face during breakfast, think about supporting this worthwhile organization!

BIKE HIKE: Come one Come all! Get your bikes ready and join the FUN at the annual Prairie Trail Federation's Bike Hike. This years Bike Hike will be held in September. Date TBA.

POW WOW: Do you know anyone who is interested in joining the Federation and has questions. Invite them to one of POW WOW's we will be holding in early to mid September. Date TBA. We'll have some tribes there with tribal property, pictures, snacks and Q&A.

COLORING CONTEST: Hey Little Braves/Princesses, want a chance to earn a really cool patch that only a select few in the Federation have? Use your imagination and color the enclosed picture. We will pick one Princess and one Brave out of all entries. Please send to:

**Chief Grey Wolf
738 N. Catherine Ave
LaGrange Park, IL 60526**

Good Luck!

Have a Safe and Fun Summer!

Submitted by Grey Wolf (Dave Cooper – Chickasaw Guides/Pueblo Princess)
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