

## Reflections

I was having lunch last week with an executive, one of those high powered, high energy types who as CEO is busy running a company and involved with both business and civic boards. His resume is impressive and his time is squeezed by the demands of all his roles.

Our conversation turned to the outside activities he is involved with and the one board he declared he was most proud to serve on was the local school board. For such a high octane guy who has money and ego that struck me as odd so I asked why. He explained in the most direct terms: "It's not for money or prestige; it's simply about the kids."

I rolled my fork around my steak salad lunch and pondered that thought for a while..."It's about the kids."

Our Indian Guide, Indian Princess and Trailblazer program in its purest form is all about the kids. We perform civic activities with our children teaching them to give back to the community. We make crafts together and spend time with our kids mentoring them along the way. And then there's our campouts where father and child get to spend meaningful time together away from the bustle of daily life creating memories that will last a lifetime.

When we departed lunch, I walked back to the office thinking about my time in the YIGP-TB program. My thoughts took me back to my first campout at Tecumseh with my now seventh grade son. Man did we have a great time. It was a cool, crisp autumn weekend. I was with 18 dads and their kids in the Illini tribe and only knew a handful of them. After Tecumseh's Saturday morning breakfast we took off for events: horseback riding, the rifle range, arrows, canoeing, and tribal games. And after all that we enjoyed our first Induction Ceremony around a raging fire that evening. The next day we spent more time with all the activities offered by the camp finally coming home Sunday afternoon thoroughly exhausted. I was physically dragging that Monday at work but not nearly as much as my son experienced at school. My wife was called by the school to pick up our son who was sound asleep on the couch in the nurse's office having fallen asleep in class that morning. That story is now part of family lore.

The weekend at Tecumseh started me on my journey with our program. I was hooked. And my love of the program caused me to become involved first as our Tribal Chief, then as a Nation Chief and ultimately I was asked to become the Federation Chief. My son has made passage and I am now enjoying my last year in the program with my daughter, a bonus year of sorts as she and her 5th

grade friends decided to stay in the tribe another year. We'll move on to Trailblazers next which I have enjoyed attending with my son.

Over the course of my time in the program I have made some great friendships, meeting people from all walks of life: electricians, lawyers, doctors, plumbers, and enjoyed getting to know and work with all these men. Why? Because each and every one of them were involved, focusing on our kids, building and nurturing a program, not for compensation or prestige, but simply out of passion for our YIGP-TB program.

We talk in our ceremony about the years going by fast. Oh man! I can vouch for that! My time as your Federation Chief is coming to a close. Scott Mesick will be taking over as your Chief in January. He's a good man with a great heart and I know that I am leaving the program in good hands with Scott.

It has been my pleasure and distinct honor to serve as your Federation Chief. As I reflect on my time as Chief, I know that I was driven by words you have heard before which I will paraphrase: "To seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Spirit, bringing fathers and their children together in service to one another". I only hope in some small way that I have fulfilled those ideals.

But before I depart as Chief, I ask one last thing of each and every one of you: If you enjoy our program, take it upon yourself to become active. Become active in your tribe, active in the Federation. Take a leadership role not for money or ego but simply to serve our kids. Remember the story about the guy I met at lunch and recall the words you yourself have uttered: Pals Forever/ Friends Forever - you have spoken those very words at our campout. Remember it's about the kids!

I close my tenure as Chief with these simple thoughts: May the Great Spirit watch over you in all that you do, wherever you may go.

How How!

--Soon To Be Federation Chief Emeritus, Silver Cloud  
Tom Estey

2009

Merry Christmas!



**Guides, Princesses and Trailblazers  
YMCA Men's Club Christmas  
Tree Sale  
Earn a patch by helping at the tree lot!**

Happy Holidays!



<p><b>Monday, November 30</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Mohegan Guides Teton Guides Pawnee Guides Tonto Princesses</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 1</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Arapaho Guides Mohican Princesses Iroquois Guides Sauk Princesses</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 2</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Mighty Oak Princesses Kiowa Princesses Ogalala Sioux Guides Ozark Guides</p>
<p><b>Thursday, December 3</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Ho Chunk Princesses Kickapoo Princesses Big Oak Guides Blackhawk Guides</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 4</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Illini Princesses Wind River Princesses Chinook Guides Trailblazers A-K</p>	<p><b>Saturday, December 5</b> <b><u>9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Dakota Guides Shawnee Guides Hiawatha Princesses Chiricahua Princesses Apache Princesses Fox Princesses Comanche Princesses Kachina Princesses Trailblazers L-Z</p>
<p><b>Sunday, December 6</b> <b><u>9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Snake Princesses Hiawatha Princesses Seneca Princesses Mohegan Princesses Keewaydin Guides Kee Wah Sheena Guides Hopi Princesses</p>	<p><b>Monday, December 7</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Yazoo Guides Yupok Guides Sioux Princesses</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 8</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Walla Walla Princesses Arapaho Princesses Shoshone Guides Pokagon Guides</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, December 9</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Dakota Princesses Beaver Guides Chickasaw Guides Deyo Princesses</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 10</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Lakote Guides Seminole Guides Miami Guides Shasta Princesses Mohawk Princesses</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 11</b> <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b> Crow Guides Hopi Guides Big Oak Guides Buffalo Princesses</p>

See Reverse Side for further scheduling information

<p><b>Saturday, December 12</b>  <b><u>9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Comanche Guides  Illini Guides  Navajo Guides  Miami Princesses  Blackhawk Princesses  Miccossukee Guides  Cree Princesses</p>	<p><b>Sunday, December 13</b>  <b><u>9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Apache Guides  Chippewa Guides  Ogalala Princesses  Huron Guides  Omaha Guides  Ottawa Princesses  Huron Princesses  Blackfoot Guides</p>	<p><b>Monday, December 14</b>  <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Sauk Fox Guides  Blackfoot Princesses  Cheyenne Princesses  Teton Princesses</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, December 15</b>  <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Potowatomi Guides  Cahokia Princesses  Chucktaw Princesses  Pawnee Princesses</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 16</b>  <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Pavite Guides  Snake Guides  Chippewa Princesses  Sauk Princesses</p>	<p><b>Thursday, December 17</b>  <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Ojibwa Guides  Winnebago Guides  Cherokee Princesses  Pueblo Princesses</p>
<p><b>Friday, December 18</b>  <b><u>6:00 – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Mohican Guides  Seneca Guides  Chickasaw Princesses</p>	<p><b>Saturday, December 19</b>  <b><u>9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.</u></b>  Cherokee Guides  Tonkawa Guides  Ute Guides  Crow Princesses  Ozark Princesses  Shawnee Princesses  Shoshone Princesses</p>	

For tribes assigned to Saturdays and Sundays: If you are in a larger tribe, consider splitting the time up among members of your tribe to help provide coverage throughout the day.

Schedule a couple of hours. Do the best you can. Just sell trees!

The tree lot is located next to Gordon Park (in the handball courts) located behind the old YMCA (LaGrange and Ogden)

Have a Merry Christmas and great holiday season!

Questions? Contact Federation Chief Silver Cloud at [TomEstey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TomEstey@sbcglobal.net)





**2010  
Prairie Trail  
Federation  
Ice Skating  
Party**



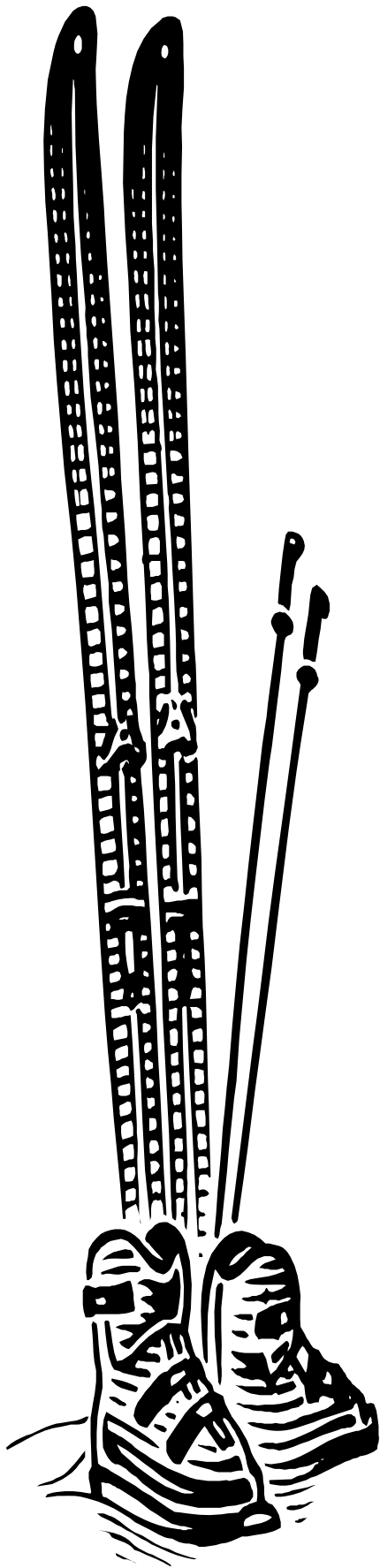
**Sunday, January 3, 2010**

**4:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**All-Family Event!**

Darien Sportsplex  
451 Plainfield Road  
Darien, IL 60561

**\$5.00 per person**  
**Includes Skate Rental!**



# 2010 Trailblazer Winter Campout

January 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

*Ski Cascade Mountain-*

*Stay at Wilderness Lodge Resort!*

*Fourth Grade Guides and Princesses 10 and over are welcome to participate.*

*Cascade Mountain has four Terrain Parks, one Super pipe, one Half pipe, 15+ trails and jibs, and 5-10 jumps that are available for both skiers and boarders to enjoy. Each of their 4 terrain parks feature different jumps and rails that change from day-to-day.*

*Enjoy America's Largest Waterpark Resort in Wisconsin Dells, excites guests with loads of slides thrills, lazy rivers, two huge wave pools and 3 indoor waterparks.*



**EARLY REGISTRATION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. ROOM DEPOSITS  
ARE DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

*Call John Kepich with any questions, 708/704-9538*

*See enclosed reservation form.*

*Mail checks to John Kepich*

*6340 Americana Drive #910*

*Willowbrook, IL 60527*

# 2010 TRAILBLAZER WINTER CAMPOUT

## REGISTRATION - IT'S THE AMERICAN WAY

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Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Names \_\_\_\_\_

and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

(M) or (F) \_\_\_\_\_

### Friday, January 15, 2010

Wilderness Lodge Resort - Lodging \*      \_\_\_ people @ \$30.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

(10 person per room minimum, 13 person maximum)

Closing Ski Lift Ticket (5pm - Close)      \_\_\_ people @ \$15.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Ski / Snowboard Equipment Rental      \_\_\_ people @ \$12.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Ski Lift Ticket (12 and under) **FREE**      \_\_\_ people @ \$ 0.00 each = **FREE**

### Saturday, January 16, 2010

Wilderness Lodge Resort - Lodging      \_\_\_ people @ \$35.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

(10 person per room minimum, 13 person maximum)

### Saturday Events

Skiing Lift Ticket (13 and over)      \_\_\_ people @ \$30.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Skiing Lift Ticket (12 and under) **FREE**      \_\_\_ people @ \$ 0.00 each = **FREE**

Lift Ticket (Tubing - 2 hour window)      \_\_\_ people @ \$15.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Lift Ticket (combo Skiing and Tubing 13+)      \_\_\_ people @ \$40.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Ski or Snowboard Equipment (rental)      \_\_\_ people @ \$24.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Voucher (\$12.00 value)      \_\_\_ people @ \$7.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_

(choice of hamburger/cheeseburger/hot dog/chicken sandwich/

pizza/cup of soup/cup of chili/garden salad)

French Fries, soft drink or milk.

**TOTAL CHECK PAYABLE TO PRAIRIE TRAIL FEDERATION      = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Mail check payable to Prairie Trail Federation and send to JOHN KEPICH

6340 AMERICANA DR. # 910, WILLOWBROOK, IL 60527.

**REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE IS: DECEMBER 1, 2009**

*\*Each Condo is equipped with a Full Kitchen with Breakfast Bar*



## Top Ten Reasons to attend the Theatre of Western Springs Holiday Show

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10. You can see Peter Pan and Wendy without a trip to Disney World. (and no gift shops.)
9. There are no good NCAA basketball games on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
8. A family of four can go out for the night for less than \$50.
7. You can DVR *The Office*.
6. See Santa Claus without a trip to the mall.
5. You know a guy who can hook you up with tickets to this sellout show. (see below.)
4. *Wicked* is no longer playing in Chicago.
3. You can count it as a tribe meeting but you don't have to have the kids in your house.
2. Com'n, Scrooge. It's Christmas. Live a little.
1. "Take me to the show, Dad, or I start hanging out with Black Cloud, if you catch my drift."

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**Reserve:** To reserve your seats, send an email to Dennis Harding, [djharding72@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djharding72@sbcglobal.net). Seating is limited.

**Date:** December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Thursday, 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

**Tickets:** \$13 for adults and \$7 for children. General admission seating.

**Where:** Theatre of Western Springs  
4384 Hampton Ave.  
Western Springs, IL