



August 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

Greetings From Your Federation Chief's

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YMCA
Father/Child
Program

FRIENDS FOREVER

PURPOSE

The purpose of the YMCA Father/Child Program is to foster understanding and companionship between father and child

SLOGAN

"Friends Forever"

AIMS

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart
2. To be Friends Forever with my Dad/Mom/Son/Daughter
3. To love the sacred circle of my family
4. To listen while others speak
5. To love my neighbor as myself
6. To seek and preserve the beauty of our Creator's work in forest field and stream.

YA TA HAY BLACKLAND PRAIRIE FEDERATION!

I am excited to be the first to announce this – our new format for the Smoke Signal. Thanks to Larry Swinea, the newest Federation Official (Drum Beater) the Smoke Signal is undergoing a format and appearance change. The hope is to make the newsletter more accessible and informative, as well as aesthetically pleasing. It will be mailed quarterly as usual, and available monthly online.

Speaking of matters online, we also have a new Blackland Prairie Federation website for easy access to all the latest news and event confirmation data. The web address is <http://www.blackland-prairie.org>. In the event of any last minute changes, this will be the place to find the information. This site will have quick links to all of the pertinent information such as the events calendar, registration, tribal sites, handbooks, the Smoke Signal, and whatever else needs to be easily disseminated. You can of course access all of this through the YMCA website, but we thought you might like a shortcut. Let us know what you think, and if you have any constructive suggestions.

Next - the CARNIVAL is upon us. Clear your calendar for August 30, and bring all yourselves, and your friends. This is the best opportunity to introduce families to the program who have missed out. There will be all kinds of activity booths sponsored by the tribes including an appearance by the AFD. The event is free, and open for all.

Finally, as you know all of the patches for each event are designed by the kids. Any child in the program can - and should, submit a patch design for any or all of the activities which will occur throughout the program year. Those submissions should be delivered to the Little Chief's Longhouse on August 19, 2008, where the children of the current chiefs vote on the patch designs. This is an excellent opportunity for kids to become a part of every vest.

See you in August!

Federation Chief Running Buck

Swimming Butterfly

Little Buck Runamuck

Livie One-Shoe

(Wes, Zoe, Grant & Olivia Maness)



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

<http://blackland-prairie.org/>

Upcoming Events

- Little Chief's Longhouse
August 19th
7:00pm
Central Branch YMCA
- Carnival
August 30th
9:00am - 1:00pm
Central Branch YMCA
- New Dad's Orientation
September 9th
7:00pm
Central Branch YMCA
- Federation Longhouse
September 16th
6:30pm
Central Branch YMCA
- Trail Rafting Trip
Sept 5 - 7
- Tribal Chief Longhouse
September 16th
7:30pm
Central Branch YMCA
- Induction
September 20th
Time
Lake Arlington
- Papoose Fall Campout
September 26-28
Dinosaur Valley
- Trail Fall Campout
October 3-5
TBD
- Princess fall Campout
October 10-12
TBD
- Guides Fall Campout
October 24-26
Cooper Canyon
- Papoose Train Ride
November 1st
- Princess Dance
November 7th
- Turkey Shoot
November 8th

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 <i>Little Chief's Longhouse</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Carnival</i>

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Trail Rafting Trip</i>	6 <i>Trail Rafting Trip</i>
7 <i>Trail Rafting Trip</i>	8	9 <i>New Dad's Orientation</i>	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Longhouse</i>	17	18	19	20 <i>Induction Ceremony</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Papoose Fall Campout</i>	27 <i>Papoose Fall Campout</i>
28 <i>Papoose Fall Campout</i>	29	30	1	2	3 <i>Trail Fall Campout</i>	4 <i>Trail Fall Campout</i>

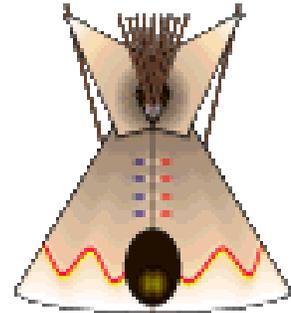
Have A Great Summer!

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS FOR THIS SEASON AND GET A RECRUIT-
MENT PATCH FOR EVERY NEW PARTICIPANT

Greetings From The Trail Nations

Mighty Trail Nation!

With the heat of July upon us, and the summer more than half gone, we look forward to the coming school year and the start of a new season with the YMCA Trail Program. As the Federation Chief has already mentioned, we have a new look for the Smoke Signal this year, and improved formats for "getting the information out" to fellow program members. Be sure to read Wes' section to the entire Blackland Prairie Federation.



The 4th of July Parade this year was a lot of fun and a huge success. Many thanks and three Kudo's to Gene Hubble for his supply of the float and supplies, and expertise in entering, decorating, setting up and pulling the YMCA float again this year. Copy and paste this link (compliments of Charles Richards) for a slideshow of the event.

<http://s309.photobucket.com/albums/kk386/bigfireball/2008%20July%204th%20Parade/?albumview=slideshow>

Since most of you have been around a while, you know that the 'official' season kick-off is the Federation Carnival scheduled this year for August 30th. Mark that date on your calendar and plan to attend for at least part of the morning. As the 'seasoned' members of the Federation, we can show the younger Big and Little Braves a few things, and be available to answer questions from new members. We'll also need help setting up and maintaining the rope bridge. Please send me an e-mail if you can help.

After the Carnival, the first Trail event is scheduled for September 5th through 7th. We're returning to Camp Hueco Springs in New Braunfels and the Rockin 'R' River Rides to raft down the Guadalupe River. More information to follow in a separate e-mail correspondence, but again, mark these dates on your calendar.

Ya Ta Hay!

Jim Norris
Trail Nation Chief
817.233.7694

Gene Hubble
Trail Nation Assistant Chief
817.457.7150



Remember the Carnival
August 30th
9AM - 1PM
Central YMCA

YMCA Contact Information

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Arlington, TX 76013
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rodneys@ymca-arlington.org

Words From The Guides

Ya Tay Hey!!!!

I hope everyone is having a GREAT Summer. Things are beginning to roll with Guides, and I know it will be a great year. I am pleased to tell the Guide's Nation what is new for this year. First, if you have not gotten your notice, we have a new website Father/Child program. This will provide you a quick and easy way to get up to date information about events that are happening. The website is www.blackland-prairie.org. This site has photos, meeting forms and even a blog for announcements. This will be a great tool for the Nation and we thank all of those involved in putting it together.

I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead. Our big summer activity will be the YMCA at the Texas Rangers game against the Mariners. This is on July 30th and the tickets are half price. When you come, please have both you and your son wear your vests. This is going to be a fun time, and a great chance to introduce a potential new member to the program. I look forward to seeing ya'll there.

The next event will kick off the 2008/2009 season for the Parent/Child Program. The Carnival takes place at the Central YMCA on the 30th of August from 9:00 to 1:00. This is going to be when you sign up for the program and bring your friends and family so they can see what a great program we have and why we are apart of it. As in the past, each tribe will be responsible for their booth and prizes. Please notify the War Chief Scott Ferrell (scottf@fumcmansfield.org) of the Blackfoot if you have questions on what you would like your booth to be. Remember to get to the YMCA on Friday the 29th at 5:30 to pick out your spot.

Also, I am please to announce Scott Ferrell has also agreed to be the Feather Merchant for the Guides Nation. Please get all of your Patch requests to Scott by the weekend before each camp-out.

Guys, the Guides program is a great way to strengthen the bond we have with our children. Let's all work together and show others what makes this program so important.

Thank you again for letting me serve you as your Nation Chief.

Kevin "Night Owl" Hadawi – Nation Chief

Kaden "Roaring Rapid" Hadawi – Little Nation Chief



Message From The Princess Nation

Aho Kage (Omaha-Poncan for Hello Friends),

This is my second Smoke Signal article, but the first as your Princess Nation Chief. What's that you say? You thought Frank Dylla was the Princess Nation Chief? Well, he was until this month (July), but he has accepted a new position within his company, and is relocating to Seattle, Washington. I want to wish him luck in his new position and all the best to his family. We will miss his leadership and contribution to our program.

I have had a very busy week figuring out what it means to be the Nation Chief, because I was only notified just before the July Longhouse about my "promotion". Here is a little background on my daughter and myself. I was in Indian Guides for 3 years as a boy before moving on to Boy Scouts where I reached the rank of Life. When my oldest daughter, Andie (Shining Cloud), was in Second Grade, I began looking for an activity for us to share. I remembered the fun I had in Indian Guides and decided that this was to be our new shared activity (after her Mom said she couldn't race karts with me). She and I have been members of the Zuni Tribe for 2 years, and we haven't missed an event or Tribe meeting yet. I was the Zuni Tribal Chief last year and enjoyed every hard-working minute of it. Shining Cloud and I are much closer now than when we started the program; the result of spending time together on Father-Daughter activities and camping in the woods without the distractions of daily life. My hope is that someday, she will remember the great times we shared and send her kids off to the woods with their Dad.

The Princess Nation cannot prosper without the participation of you and your Princesses, and the inspired leadership of your Tribal Chiefs and Federation & Nation Officers. We, the Chiefs, are all volunteers learning the ropes from Rodney, the Council of Elders, and the Federation Chiefs as we go. We will do our best to serve you, but we might make mistakes or may overlook something that is important to you and your Princess. Please bring any questions or concerns about the program that you have to them or to me. Please take it upon yourself to voice your opinion, and I will strive to listen and improve the Program for the better. I encourage straight talk and you should expect the same in return.

Don't forget to have your kids design the patches for our program by the August 19th Longhouse. Your Tribal Chief has more information. Also, don't forget the Carnival on August 30th at the Central YMCA from 9am to 1pm.

Elah Kwah (Zuni for Thank You), and I look forward to a great year with all of you,

Princess Nation Chief Lightning Cloud and Shining Cloud

(Jeff and Andie)

Papoose News

Yatahey Papoose Nation,

Here is a test for our young papoose members.

1). What's great about summer? The YMCA carnival of course!

The YMCA CARNIVAL is right around the corner on Saturday August 30th at the central branch "Y".

I am told that there will be water *slides, rope bridges, carnival games, arts and crafts, snow cones* and lot's of Indian guides.

Just think of the fun you can have with you and your family!

AND IT'S ALL FREE!

Please invite ALL of your FRIENDS to the CARNIVAL. I know you will want many of YOUR FRIENDS to JOIN your tribe at the CARNIVAL.

Dad's – this is the YMCA's biggest recruiting event all year for the Father/Child program. So please begin getting the word out to all of your children's friends. This program only continues to exist with active recruitment.

ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ARTISTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The LITTLE CHIEFS LONGHOUSE MEETING IS AUGUST 19TH at 7:00 p.m.

Each year at the LITTLE CHIEFS LONGHOUSE the children of the tribe chief's and asst. chiefs get to choose the patches for the year. These new patches are chosen from the drawings that YOU make.

This year the papoose nation will be designing three of these patches. And the drawings we chose could be yours.

The patches you will need to design are for the TRAIN RIDE in November, our CHRISTMAS PARTY in December and our FISHING EVENT in February.

We need our young papoose to begin creating these patches now. The patch designs should be drawn on 8 ½ x 11 copy paper with crayons, markers, pencil or just about anything the child likes.

Once the drawing is completed please have your tribe chief submit the drawing for voting at the August 19th Little Chiefs Longhouse Meeting. And the winning entries will become this years patches!

One last item.

On September 9th we will have our new dad's orientation. Of course this is for all the dad's who are new to the program. It would be wonderful if we could have representatives from each of our tribes there. This will help the Papoose nation welcome our new members and give them an idea of what each of our tribes is about. So please enlist or volunteer someone from your tribe.

Kelly Turner
Papoose Nation Chief
214-929-4763

**YMCA Father/Child Program
Events Calendar 2008-2009**

Events	Papoose	Princess	Guides	Trail
	3-5 Yrs	K-3rd	K-3rd	4th & up
<i>New Chief's Orientation</i>	24-Jun YMCA	24-Jun YMCA	24-Jun YMCA	24-Jun YMCA
<i>4th of July Parade (Arlington)</i>	4-Jul	4-Jul	4-Jul	4-Jul
<i>Carnival</i>	30-Aug	30-Aug	30-Aug	30-Aug
<i>Little Chiefs Longhouse</i>	19-Aug	19-Aug	19-Aug	19-Aug
<i>Trail Event</i>				Sep 5 - Sep 7 Rafting Trip
<i>New Dad's Orientation</i>	9-Sep YMCA	9-Sep YMCA	9-Sep YMCA	9-Sep YMCA
<i>Induction</i>	20-Sep Lake Arlington	20-Sep Lake Arlington	20-Sep Lake Arlington	20-Sep Lake Arlington
<i>Fall Campout Event</i>	Sep 26 - Sep 28 Dinosaur Valley	Oct 10-12 Lake Murray	Oct 24-26 Cooper Lake	Oct 3-5 Wichita Wildlife Refuge
<i>Papoose Event</i>	1-Nov			
<i>Princess Dance</i>		7-Nov		
<i>Turkey Shoot</i>	8-Nov	8-Nov	8-Nov	8-Nov
<i>Federation Community Day</i>	15-Nov	15-Nov	15-Nov	15-Nov
<i>Arlington Parade of Lights</i>	6-Dec	6-Dec	6-Dec	6-Dec
<i>Papoose Christmas Party</i>	14-Dec			
<i>Federation Winter Campout</i>	Jan 30 - Feb 1 Loyd Park	Jan 30 - Feb 1 Loyd Park	Jan 30 - Feb 1 Loyd Park	Jan 30 - Feb 1 Loyd Park
<i>Father-Son Event</i>			7-Feb	
<i>Daddy Daughter Date Night</i>		8-Feb		
<i>Federation Fund Raiser Dinner</i>	21-Feb	21-Feb	21-Feb	21-Feb
<i>Papoose Event</i>	28-Feb			
<i>Pinewood Derby</i>	7-Mar	7-Mar	7-Mar	7-Mar
<i>Family Campout</i>	Mar 27-29 Ray Roberts	Mar 27-29 Ray Roberts	Mar 27-29 Ray Roberts	Mar 27-29 Ray Roberts
<i>Spring Campout Event</i>	Apr 24-26 Mineral Wells State Park	Apr 17-19 Cooper Lake	Apr 3-5 Waxahachie Creek	May 1-3 Canoe Trip/San Marcos
<i>Chief's Appreciation Dinner</i>	19-May	19-May	19-May	19-May
<i>Rocket Shoot</i>	16-May	16-May	16-May	16-May
<i>Trail End Trip</i>		June 5-7 Carlsbad Caverns	June 5-7 Carlsbad Caverns	June 5-7 Carlsbad Caverns

The NEW Blackland Federation Smoke Signal

We invite and welcome submissions of all kinds!!

You are invited, and encouraged, to send your favorite photos each month from your tribe events. Articles about your adventures are also welcome. Articles should be 200 words or less. Articles should be about Federation events, or about something your Tribe or Club did outside of the Federation events.

Please preview your photos, and send the good ones in the highest resolution possible. Closeups are better than distant shots.

SMOKE SIGNAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Larry Swinea (*Federation Drum Beater/Smoke Signal Publisher*)

817-446-8736 e-mail: swinea3@netzero.net

2008-2009 Patch Design Contest

The designing of patches for the next year's events is open to all new and returning members of the Papoose, Guides and Princess Nations. This contest is not open to Trail Nation members.

Please follow these guidelines regarding your entries:

1. One event per sheet of paper (prefer 8 ½ x 11)
2. On the back of the sheet
 1. Name of the event the design is for
 2. Name of your Nation and Tribe
 3. The Chief and dad's name (Given and Indian names)
 4. The child's grade level
3. No computer aided designs. Your child must draw/color it. Drawings need to be camera ready, completely colored and ready to go. Markers and map pencils work better than crayons.
4. Drawing can be any size (prefer to fill the page or 2-3 times larger than the actual patch will be). The patch company will adjust the graphic to fit the final patch sizes.
5. Drawing can have any outer shape desired. Shape is not restricted to circle, square, etc...
6. Tribal Chiefs are responsible for bringing drawings to the August Longhouse.
7. Please include the season and year somewhere on the patch (e.g. "Spring 2009").
8. Any program child can design a patch for events that involve all Nations. Only papoose can submit and vote on exclusive Papoose Nation events. Only little braves can submit and vote on exclusive Guides Nation events. Only princesses can submit and vote on exclusive Princess Nation events (see table below).

Patch Events

All Nations Fall Campout Community Day Winter Campout Pinewood Derby Turkey Shoot Spring Campout Rocket Shoot Family Campout	Princess Nation Only Luau Dance Daddy/Daughter Date Night	Guides Nation Only Father/Son Sports Night	Papoose Nation Only Train Ride Christmas Party Fishing Trip
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Don't Forget Our Big Kick Off Event
 Induction Ceremony
 September 20, 2008
 Lake Arlington



Butterflies



One day the Creator was resting, sitting, watching some children at play in a village. The children laughed and sang, yet as he watched them, the Creator's heart was sad. He was thinking: "These children will grow old. Their skin will become wrinkled. Their hair will turn gray. Their teeth will fall out. The young hunter's arm will fail. These lovely young girls will grow ugly and fat. The playful puppies will become blind mangy dogs. And those wonderful flowers--yellow and blue, red and purple--will fade. The leaves from the trees will fall and dry up. Already they are turning yellow." Thus the Creator grew sadder and sadder. It was in the fall, and the thought of the coming winter, with its cold and lack of game and green things, made his heart heavy.



Yet it was still warm and the sun was shining. The Creator watched the play of sunlight and shadow on the ground, the yellow leaves being carried here and there by the wind. He saw the blueness of the sky, the whiteness of some cornmeal ground by some women. Suddenly he smiled. "All those colors, they ought to be preserved. I'll make something to gladden my heart, something for these children to look at and enjoy."



The Creator took out his bag and started gathering things: a spot of sunlight, and handful of blue from the sky, the whiteness from the cornmeal, the shadow of playing children, the blackness of a beautiful girl's hair, the yellow if the falling leaves, the green of the pine needles, the red, purple, and orange of the flowers around him. All these he put into his bag. As an afterthought, he put the songs of birds in, too.



Then he walked over to the grassy spot where the children were playing. "Children, little children, this is for you," and he gave them his bag. "Open it; there's something nice inside," he told them.



The children opened the bag, and at once hundreds and hundreds of colored butterflies flew out, dancing around the children's heads, settling on their hair, fluttering up again to sip from this or that flower. And the children, enchanted, said that they had never seen anything so beautiful.



The butterflies began to sing, and the children listened smiling.



But then a songbird came flying, settling on the Creator's shoulder, scolding him, saying, "It's not right to give our songs to these new pretty things. You told us when you made us that every bird would have his own song. And now you've passed them all around. Isn't it enough that you gave your new playthings the colors of the rainbow?"



"You're right," said the Creator. "I made one song for each bird, and I shouldn't take what belongs to you."



So the Creator took the songs away from the butterflies, and that's why they are silent.



"They're beautiful even so!" he said.



2008-2009 YMCA of Arlington Father/Child Leadership

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The YMCA Father/Child Program July 4th Parade 2008 Spirit Award Winners