

November 2011

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Recruitment...

Recruit new members for this season and get a recruitment patch for every new participant!

Online Registration

Program & Event registration is available at ymca-arlington.org



Upcoming Events...

* See complete calendar on page 2 *



Arlington Parade of Lights

December 3, 6 pm
Downtown Arlington

Cost: Free

<http://www.holidaylightsparade.com/>

Come join us on one of our floats!!

Princess Bike Rodeo

Saturday Dec 3, 10am—12pm

River Legacy Park in Arlington

Bike Safety, Parade, Obstacle Course, Awards
for best decoration in many categories

Cost: Free



Papoose Christmas Party

December 11, 1-4 pm
Central Arlington YMCA

2200 S. Davis Dr.

Cost: Free

Elder: **Brian Hill**

Elder: Mike Ginani 469.767.3051

Elder: John Geyerman 817.473.0218

Elder: David Adams

Elder: **Jeff Cloud** 817-360-0611

Elder: Jim Gammon

Bold names are new elders this year.

Federation Chief: Bill Darroch 214.274.8253

Asst. Federation Chief: Chris Elkins 817.999.3311

Program Manager: Kevin Cartwright 817.274-9622 kevinc@ymca-arlington.org

Papoose Chief: Brian Bolton

Guides Chief: Brad Millican

Princess Chief: Rob Williams

Trail Chief: David Adams

Federation Meshenewa: Jeff Cloud 817-360-0611

Program Calendar

YMCA Father/Child Program Events Calendar 2011-2012				
Events	Papoose 3-5 Yrs	Princess K-3rd	Guides K-3rd	Trail 4th & up
<i>New Dad's Orientation</i>	13-Sep YMCA	13-Sep YMCA	13-Sep YMCA	13-Sep YMCA
<i>Induction</i>	17-Sep Lake Arlington	17-Sep Lake Arlington	17-Sep Lake Arlington	17-Sep Lake Arlington
<i>Fall Campout Event</i>	Sep 23 - 25 Dino Valley SP	Oct 21 - 23 Cooper Lake SP	Oct 7 - 9 Lake Whitney SP	Sept 30 - Oct 2 Rafting Trip -- Rockin "R"
<i>Turkey Shoot</i>	5-Nov	5-Nov	5-Nov	5-Nov
<i>Federation Community Day</i>	12-Nov	12-Nov	12-Nov	12-Nov
<i>Papoose Train Ride Event</i>	19-Nov			
<i>Princess Bike Rodeo</i>		3-Dec		
<i>Arlington Parade of Lights</i>	3-Dec	3-Dec	3-Dec	3-Dec
<i>Papoose Christmas Party</i>	11-Dec			
<i>Federation Winter Campout</i>	Jan 27 - 29 Loyd Park	Jan 27 - 29 Loyd Park	Jan 27 - 29 Loyd Park	Jan 27 - 29 Loyd Park
<i>Daddy Daughter Date Night</i>		17-Feb		
<i>Guides Night at the Museum</i>			3-Feb	
<i>Federation Fund Raiser Dinner</i>	25-Feb	25-Feb	25-Feb	25-Feb
<i>Pinewood Derby</i>	3-Mar	3-Mar	3-Mar	3-Mar
<i>Papoose Fishing Event</i>	24-Mar			
<i>Spring Campout Event</i>	Apr 20-22 Tyler SP	Apr 13 - 15 Lake Whitney SP	Apr 27 - 29 Lake Murray	May 4 - 6 Enchanted Rock SP
<i>Rocket Shoot</i>	12-May	12-May	12-May	12-May
<i>Chief's Appreciation Dinner</i>	15-May	15-May	15-May	15-May
<i>Family Campout</i>	May 18-20 Cedar Hill SP	May 18-20 Cedar Hill SP	May 18-20 Cedar Hill SP	May 18-20 Cedar Hill SP
		Updated: 11/29/2011 Rev. K		

More details on all the events are in this Smoke Signal and on our web site:
<http://www.Blackland-Prairie.org>

**** The latest calendar will always be online at this address: <http://www.ymca-arlington.org/fcEventCalendar.asp>**



YA TA HEY MIGHTY BLACKLAND PRAIRIE FEDERATION!



I hope everyone has been enjoying the fall weather we have been enjoying along with some much needed rain. There are still over 200 counties in the state that are still under a burn ban. The Burn Bans this year created challenges for cooking and bon fires for all the nations. The Princess Nation had an interesting Bon Fire that was enjoyed by all as you can see it was an AWESOME Fire!

The Trail Nation's Haunted Trail continues to improve, and this year was no exception. The trail was full of interesting characters and

delightful castles around each turn and bend.

You never knew who or what was coming out of the woods next. Below are just some of the people I met along my way down the Haunted Trail.



I love the picture on the below; it shows the scare factor of the Haunted Trail. The Princess has a scared look on her face, while the dad loves every twist and turn of the interesting haunted trail.

The Trail Nation continues to look for ways to improve this event and is looking at the possibility of bringing Haunted Trail 2012 closer to home.

The here is a list of the upcoming events,

December 3rd – Princess Bike Rodeo

December 3rd 6 pm – Holiday Lights Parade

December 11th – Papoose Christmas Party

January 17th – January Longhouse

January 27th – 29th – Federation Winter Campout

There will be NO LONGHOUSE IN DECEMBER !

See you along the trail ...

Chief Crazy Horse, Little Chief Singing Pony and Little Chief Mustang.

(Bill, Hannah and Samuel)



Ya Ta Hey Mighty Papoose Nation!

First, I want to thank all of the little Papoose kids who came out to the Turkey Shoot on November 5. **BIG KUDOS** to Luke Rittenhouse of the **FOX TRIBE** for taking the high score in the Papoose Nation. **FOX TRIBE** has taken the Papoose Nation high score for 2 of the last 3 years (previously won by Grace Bolton, now a beautiful Karankawa Princess, whom took the TOP OVERALL SCORE this year.) **KUDOS to Luke and Grace!** At the last Longhouse meeting, it was my distinct pleasure to present Luke with his prize, the much-coveted frozen turkey.

Thanks to all who attended the Federation Community Day at Mission Arlington. It's a great event to expose your kiddos to a bit of community service and what it means to give back. Unfortunately, what we do as a Nation is a mere fraction of all that must be done by Mission Arlington to ensure a successful Thanksgiving meal operation, however, every bit helps and is GREATLY appreciated!

The **PAPOOSE TRAIN RIDE** on November 19 at the Forest Park Miniature Railroad in Fort Worth was a great success. Please provide feedback to your Tribe chiefs regarding your thoughts about continuing this event at the same location next year, or with suggestions for a different location. I hope all of your children had a blast riding the rails!

ONWARD, INTO DECEMBER WE GO...

On Saturday, December 3rd, the **ARLINGTON PARADE OF LIGHTS** will make its way through downtown Arlington. The Federation will have a float entered in the parade, and will be a bit different than in past years. Our Papoose-aged kids really enjoy this event. Make sure that you go out and pick up some lights for them to wear while they're riding on the float. The parade will start at 6:00 p.m., so we will need to congregate at the parade staging area ***no later than 5:30 p.m.*** I WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS to come out to Gene Hubble's shop on Friday, December 2, starting at 9:00 a.m. to assemble the float, and stay as long as you can. A more detailed message will be sent out the end of November from your Tribal Chiefs, so stay tuned!

On Sunday, December 11, we will have the annual **PAPOOSE CHRISTMAS PARTY** at the Central YMCA community room from 1:00-4:00. We will have a catered lunch, merriment, games and crafts for the kids, and a toy drive. Several uniformed U.S. Marines will arrive at 2:30 to collect new, unwrapped toys for their Toys for Tots campaign, so take your Papoose kiddos out to the toy store and let them pick something fun out for another child. More information on the details of the Christmas Party will follow.

If you know of anyone who wants to join the Program, get me their contact info and we'll get them signed up. They would only pay half of the program fee and have the entire winter, spring, and summer events to participate in. Additionally, the new members **AND** the family who recruited them will be invited to a bouncing party at Pump it Up in mid-January.

We are drawing near to the half-way point through our Program year, and are rapidly approaching the holiday season. Thanksgiving is nigh upon us, and Christmas is just around the corner. It seems that each year, the rush for the holiday season begins earlier and earlier. I was at Target a few days before Halloween, and MOST of the Christmas stuff was already out on the shelves; I was nearly mowed down by a soccer mom sprinting around the corner of an aisle looking for a pre-lit wreath while she was jibber-jabbering on her cell phone, already in a mad panic. I thought about how ridiculous it is that we are incessantly trying to rush into the next "big thing" coming down the pipe, frantically fast-forwarding ourselves through our lives.

As we arrive at the beginning of this hectic holiday season, take the time to **slow down** and remember what we, as dads, are thankful for. Remember why each of us got involved in the Program in the first place. Remember that we are all dedicated to leaving our mark in our children's lives. Be thankful for the opportunities we have to spend time with our kids. Let's enjoy the time we have with our kids and make the most of what we can while we can.

May the Great Spirit walk with you and work through you...

- PAPOOSE NATION CHIEF BLACK OWL (Brian Bolton)***
- LITTLE NATION CHIEF SMILING TURTLE (Madeleine)***
- LITTLE NATION CHIEF DANCING RAINBOW (Grace)***



Ya-ta-hey Mighty Princess Nation!

It's November and I am writing this smoke signal. It's hard to believe Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. I love this time of the year where you spend your valuable time with family and friends. It's also hard to believe we just started our season and gone through so much as tribes already. Just a reminder that if you haven't invited someone to a campout or to an event, it's half price for membership, so bring them on board!



What's left? I hate asking this question, but because it honestly doesn't "end" at the end of our season, it continues onward.

So what's coming up? We go the Bike Rodeo on December 3rd. As we're planning to the last minute on this, we're still planning on River Legacy Park from 10-12. Come learn about bike safety, helmet fit, tire inflation and brake adjustment, seat and handle bar adjustment. But most importantly come with your bikes decorated! Get creative!

What about the Arlington Parade of Lights? This is so much fun! The princesses just love this. We're decorating the trailer and if you need to find out more information about this, please get with your tribe to get more details. The setup will take place on December 2nd and YES the parade is on the same day as the Bike Rodeo, so we got some KID EVENTS all day long. :-)

And, before you know it, we got the Federation Winter Campout coming up in January.

Just a friendly reminder to everyone, we will **NOT** have a Longhouse in December.

Congratulations to Grace Bolton for her phenomenal shooting at the Turkey Shoot representing the Princess Nation! KUDOS, KUDOS, KUDOS! And thanks for everyone and their attendance at Community Day. Such a gratifying event to help others in need during the holidays!

I want to thank everyone, all Princess Tribes, all Chiefs, all Braves, and Princesses and their mothers a happy Thanksgiving and many blessings to all during Christmas. Enjoy this time with your families, and remember what is important. I am so glad to be part of such a great group of Dads and Princesses. YaTaHey!

For now, many blessings!

Nation Chief Big Kahuna (Rob Williams)
Glowing Butterfly - Lauren Williams
Brown Bear - Brenna Williams

YaTaHey Mighty Braves in the Guides Nation!

Wow!!! What a year it has been. We've been blessed with some great weather, but again, we got a little wet during the Fall campout. Even with that, I believe fun was had by all. A great time was also had at our Turkey Shoot, Community Day, and other events!!!



Congratulations to Benjamin Kocurek of the Kichai Tribe. He was our top shooter for Turkey Shoot in the Guides Nation. Kudos! Kudos! Kudos! Ben, I hope you and your family enjoyed that massive turkey you received.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I realize how thankful I am for such a wonderful organization like the Father/Child Program with the Y. What great opportunities it provides to show leadership to our sons. Hopefully they will take the lessons learned from this time to become the best Dads they can be one day.

I want to thank all of you that made it out to Community Day. Mission Arlington was hoping to unload an 18-wheeler worth of food. We did that plus another ½ of one. Great job and congratulations on a great learning experience for your kids.

Last week, my family was watching Night at the Museum. What a great movie and concept. Could things really come alive at night? Are there battles that go on when nobody is there? Well, we are going to find out on February 3rd. Our Father/Son Event this year will be Night at the Museum. We will be spending the night at the Dallas Museum of Nature & Science. We have a mid-January commit date to the museum, so let's start getting signed up soon. More information will be coming soon from your Chiefs. If you have not seen it by December 1, start asking them about it. This is going to be a great adventure.

Like always, this is your program! It only gets better with your participation and input. Let me, or any other leadership person, know your thoughts.

Brad "Big Bear Claw" Millican
Guides Nation Chief

Miles "Eagle Eye" Millican
Guides Nation Little Chief

YaTaHey Mighty Trail Nation!

The Great Spirit was with us this year for the Haunted Trail Princess campout at Cooper Lake State Park. We had great weather, a terrific spooky Haunted Trail that was better than ever for what looked to be our largest crowd and a fantastic campout (we won't mention that Saturday night baseball game). Three big kudos to everyone that participated on the Haunted Trail. We even had some dads and kids who had been out of the program want to come back and be on the Haunted Trail; y'all are always welcome to join us. Everyone, dads and kids seemed to enjoy themselves building the Haunted Trail this year, so keep that energy for next year's campout. And, I did hear that the "missing banner" wars of years past have started up again, so watch those banners!



The Turkey Shoot was held on November 5, at Dalworthington Gardens City Park and was another terrific event this year with a great turnout for the Federation. The kids loved shooting BB guns and testing their archery skills, while also learning important gun safety. Congratulations to Erika Perez for having the top score (330) for the Trail Nation. She is now the proud owner of a Thanksgiving turkey, and I'm sure her dad Richard "Master Chef" Perez will make a turkey that will make everyone envious. So sharpen up those sharpshooter skills in preparation for next year and be sure not to miss out on this fun event.

Federation Community Day was on November 12, at Mission Arlington. This day is one that really shows how much we care about our community and our ability to help those who are not as fortunate as we are, as we give back to the people of Arlington and the surrounding areas that Mission Arlington supports. Thanks to those that made it a point to attend and brought canned goods donations. Many mom came along too, and saw how hard our kids work at this event.

The **Arlington Parade of Lights** is on December 3, and the Federation is planning on having a float in the parade to highlight our program. Brian Bolton is in charge of the float this year, so watch your emails for more information on when the float preparation will take place and other important information. This is always a fun event for dads and kids to participate in and kick off the holiday season.

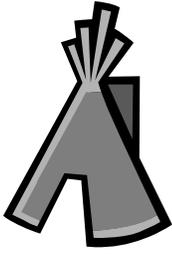
Before you know it, 2012 will be here, and the **Federation Winter Campout** at Loyd Park in Grand Prairie will be awaiting us. This is always a great campout as it's the one campout where all the Nations come together to show the strength of our Program. So get ready for a "cool" campout and gather that fire wood.

"Running Bear" (David Adams)
Trail Nation Chief

"Big Trout" (Brian Murphy)
Assistant Trail Nation Chief

"Dancing Sunshine" (Allison) – Trailmate

"Rainbow Trout" (Molly) – Trailmate



Princess Bike Rodeo

Dec 3, 10am-12pm
River Legacy Park



Arlington Parade of Lights

December 3, 6pm
Downtown Arlington

Papoose Xmas party

December 11, 1-4pm
Central YMCA Branch

Federation Winter Campout

January 27-29 Loyd Park



2200 S. Davis
Arlington, Texas 76013

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

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For Youth Development
For Healthy Living
For Social Responsibility



Program Registration & Event registration is
available at www.ymca-arlington.org