



Smoke Signal

A Publication of the YMCA of Arlington, TX Father/Child Program

August 2012

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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 *

Annual Carnival

Saturday, September 8 9am-1pm

[YMCA South Cooper Branch](#)

Join us for a great day of fun including carnival games, waterslide, dunk tank.

Please bring potential recruits, friends, co-workers, and family.



Trails Rafting Trip

September 21-23

Rockin' R, New Braunfels

First campout of the year!! Join us for some rafting down the Guadalupe river.

New Dads Orientation

Tuesday, September 25, 7-9pm

Central YMCA Community Room

ALL NEW DADS IN THE PROGRAM MUST ATTEND

Elder: **Brian Hill**

Elder: Mike Ginani 469.767.3051

Elder: David Adams

Elder: **Bill Darroch** 214.274.8253

Elder: Jeff Cloud 817-360-0611

Elder: Jim Gammon

Bold names are new elders this year.

Federation Chief: Chris Elkins 817.999.3311

Asst. Federation Chief: Mike Ginani 469.767.3051

Program Manager: Tim Cameron 817-275-8418 Timc@ymca-arlington.org

Papoose Chief: Tim Ackermann

Guides Chief: Jeff Godbold

Princess Chief: David George

Trail Chief: Brian Murphy

Federation Meshenewa: Jeff Cloud 817-360-0611

YA TA HEY BLACKLAND PRAIRIE FEDERATION!

It has been a quiet summer with the Federation but that's about to change. Within the next 30 days we will be having our Little Chiefs Longhouse, Annual Carnival, New Dad's Orientation and Induction. If you haven't registered for the program yet- get registered ASAP.

August starts the new program year; your leadership team has been meeting and planning all summer long. Some of the big changes will be the new carnival location at the South YMCA branch, 2 day Haunted Trail open to the public and a totally revamped Federation Fundraiser Event. We have some great Dads in place to make this next year awesome!



On September 8th will be our annual Carnival at a new location this year! It will be at the **South Cooper YMCA** branch from 9am-1pm. Please plan on attending this event, and I challenge every member to bring at least one guest. Reach out to your friends, neighbors, those you work with, attend church with, kids' schoolmates, and identify Dads' Clubs, Mother's Day Out programs... The carnival is fun for all the kids with games, karaoke, balloon launcher, dunk tanks and a rope bridge. Use this time to visit other tribes if you are graduating from Papoose to Princess or Guides. If you think you or your child would like to change tribes; many times we find that the child has more school friends in their new tribe than their current tribe and possibility it is a better "fit" for the father and child.

Please Mark your calendars for some of the upcoming events:

Carnival- September 8th YMCA South Branch on Cooper Street

New Dad's Orientation- September 25th YMCA Central Branch

Induction- September 29th Lake Arlington

Fall Campouts- Trail Sept. 21-23, Papoose Oct. 5-7, Princess Oct. 12-14, Guides Oct. 19-21

Haunted Trail- Oct. 26 & 27 YMCA South Branch

With summer winding down and school starting I hope you will get with your tribe for a cookout, pool party, Ranger game and have some fun.

We haven't had a Smoke Signal since the Rocket Shoot, so here are the 2012 rocket shoot award winners for the entire Federation:

Tallest: Brian Simpson - Choctaw Guides

Shortest: Cindy Sanders - Seminole Princess

Most Indian-Like: Cindy Sanders - Seminole Princess

Most Colorful: Abby Castro - Zuni Princess

Judges Favorite: Cooper Tilson - Navajo Guides

See everyone at the Carnival September 8th.

Federation Chief "Big Elk"
Kichai Princess "Sparkling Blossom"
Kichai Princess "Dancing Rain"
(Chris, Madison, Makenna)

Ya Ta Hey Mighty Papoose Nation!

It's been a (mostly) quiet summer but the Father/Child program and the Papoose Nation are gearing up for another year. We all hope that you had a lot of good family time.

First – most importantly – NOW is the time to think about an important question: WHO will you will ask to join the Papoose Nation THIS MONTH? We need YOU to ask people to join us in spending quality time with our daughters and sons. Aren't you glad someone asked you? Are there small ones in your pre-school? Sunday school? Your neighborhood?

Why you? The Papoose program is in the best position to help recruit new families and our fathers and mothers are the best recruiters because they know how much the dads and kids get out of the experience.

Why this month? Our biggest recruiting event, Carnival, is September 8th and we start camping at the beginning of October!

Second, here's a list of the many fun upcoming events in the next two months:

Carnival – September 8th. BRING ONE! Reach out to your friends / neighbors with small ones, those you work with, attend church with, the kids' schoolmates - you get the idea. Maybe your wife's friends have kids the right age (Papoose or Guides/Princesses). Carnival is our MOST important recruiting event and it's a fun time for the kids and dads!

New Dad's Orientation – September 25th.

Induction – September 29th. Bring the family out to Lake Arlington so everyone can enjoy the festivities!

Fall Campout – October 5-7th. The weekend after Induction the Papoose Nation travels to Lake Mineral Wells. A short trip but a beautiful lake and hills. Go ahead and sign up now!

Haunted Trail – October 26-27th. A big change: Haunted Trail will be in Arlington (probably the South Y) rather than out at the Guides/Princess Campout. But remember: it's SCARY!

Papoose Train Ride – October 27th. We enjoyed the Forest Park Miniature Railroad so much we're going back!

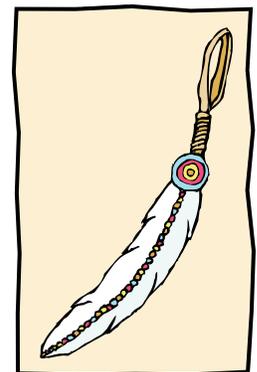
Looking forward to a lot of fun times,

Stalking Wolf (Tim Ackermann)

Dancing Goose (Liesl Ackermann)

Singing Tiger (Roslyn Ackermann)

Burning Phoenix (Signy Ackermann)



Ya-ta-hey Mighty Princess Nation!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. I've talked with a number of you during the last couple of months and it sounds like there have been some great family adventures and vacations that our Princesses will be sharing with their tribe mates for months to come. I can't wait to hear more!

Summer is certainly a busy time of the year. Now, we are approaching the beginning of the school, which seems to kick off yet another whirlwind of activities for everyone. Our schedules are packed! Do you know any Dad's that might have shown some interest in the program, but indicated their schedules were too full or that the program required too much of a time commitment? Several years back, I was one of those Fathers who didn't think I had the time to fit in any more activities. When I now think back to all of the amazing opportunities and adventures that I've had with my children as a result of this program, I can't believe there was ever a time when I was hesitant to join. When you encounter those Dad's that might be on the fence and are concerned about the time commitment, please make sure to share your personal stories and the impact that the program has had on your relationship with your Princess or Brave. I'm sure that testimonials from program members played a big role the decisions by many of you to join this program. I'm certainly thankful to those who shared with me and I can't imagine missing out on these memories with my children.

The program is about to get into full swing during the coming weeks and there are several activities/events that you are not going to want to miss.

The Little Chief's Longhouse is scheduled for August 21st. Make sure you get your patch designs submitted to your Tribal Chiefs prior to that meeting. Patch designs will be voted on that night.

Our Carnival event is scheduled for September 8th. Chiefs - has your tribe selected a booth or activity yet? Get that information submitted as soon as possible. Let's also make sure to spread the word to friends and family so that we can have a big turnout again this year!

New Dad's orientation is September 25th.

Induction Ceremony is September 29th. Please plan to attend this special event and show support to all of the new members, not only from your tribe, but from all over the program. Make sure to invite all of your friends and family.

We're excited about the new year and look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming events!

Sincerely,
Old Gray Bear (David George)
Snow Panther (Ella George-Princess)
Dancing Squirrel (Anna George - Trail)
Black Bear (Jake George - Trail)



YaTaHey Mighty Braves in the Guides Nation!

Welcome Guides! Summer is drawing to a close and the school year is upon us and we look forward to another fun and exciting New Year in the Guides program!



As you have probably already read or heard from your chiefs, the schedule of the yearly events is a bit different this year. Please review the schedule carefully! The schedule is now up on the Y website or at blackland-prairie.org. Of special note for September: Carnival is on Saturday the 8th from 9AM to 1PM (new location at the South Cooper Street "Y"), new dad orientation is on Tuesday the 25th at the central "Y", and Induction is on Saturday the 29th at Lake Arlington.

All these events are great opportunities for your Little Brave to bring out those best friends (my Little Brave tells me that texting that is 'BFF') and their dads from school that are not yet in the program and let them see all the fun that we have!

In addition to the schedule changes, we are going to Fairfield State Park for our Fall Campout! I can't remember the last time the Guides were there. We'll talk more about the Fall Campout in the months to come; for those that have never been to Fairfield, the park is especially known for its fishing, and has great hiking, biking and for those Brave enough (pun intended) a great sandy beach and swimming area too!

For those that are wondering, "What can I do?" or "How can I help?" please feel free to talk to your chief, or to me or my assistant. Usually there are several tribal duties such as Feather Merchant, Wampum Keeper, Tally Keeper and Assistant Chief (and more) that your chief could use help with. In addition, we can always use more help at the Nation and Federation Events.

One last item I would like to add is from my Assistant Nation Chief, Soaring Eagle: As we all know, the more that the Big Brave puts into the program, the more the bond between the Big Brave and Little Brave is formed. Over the years, we've seen many patches awarded for all those bead deeds earned, but we would like to place a challenge out there: We'd like for each tribe to have at least one Thunderbird earned this year by Spring Campout.

Peace and Three Kudo's for the Federation Chief and Assistant Federation Chief for planning a great year for us!

Jeff Godbold (Silver Eagle)

Guides Nation Chief

Evan (Running Leopard)

Guides Little Nation Chief

Steve Hartung (Soaring Eagle)

Guides Assistant Nation Chief

Gabe (Snowy Rabbit)

Kevin (Sleeping Bear)

YaTaHey Mighty Trail Nation!

Let me introduce myself as your new Trail Nation Chief, I consider it a honor to represent the Trail Nation for the 2012-2013 year! I would like to welcome all of the new Trailmates that will be joining us this next year. I hope you have as much fun, and find the new adventure ahead of you as pleasant as I did in my first year in Trails last year. I want to thank Running Bear and Dancing Sunshine for a fantastic year last year, and I hope to carry on the Trails legacy.

It is almost that time of year, where we get the tent ready, air mattresses re-placed, and Dutch oven recipes perfected! The Father-Child Program is ready to begin for another successful year. Registration for the Program opens with the Carnival on September 8th, so be sure to sign up. And while you're at it, enroll another dad and their kids who you know will enjoy our fantastic program.

The month of September will be a busy month for the Trail Nation, so here's a run-down of upcoming events. Be sure to mark your calendars, come out and have a good time.

September 8th - Carnival. The Trail Nation plays an important role in the carnival, sponsoring the rope bridge. We'll need help both Friday night (September 7th) setting up the rope bridge and Saturday morning (beginning at 9:00 a.m.) manning it with teams of two dads. This is a great time to bring friends and other dads to our carnival to see first-hand the fun and bond the Father-Child Program provides each of us and our children. New for this year the carnival will be held at the south YMCA on Cooper.

RAFTING TRIP - September 21st - 23rd. This is the first Trail Nation event for the year, and one of the best by far! We will be camping at Camp Huaco Springs at the Rockin 'R in New Braunfels. More to come on this in the September Smoke Signal, but you don't want to miss this event. As of right now the rivers are running very low and slow, so unless the Great Spirit deems us worthy of rain, there may be a change in plans. I ask everyone to do a little rain dance!

September 29th - Induction at Lake Arlington. Make plans to attend this special event, it promises to be a great evening.

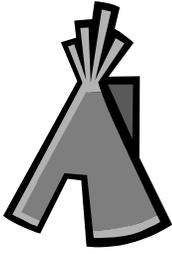
If any of you have any suggestions for events, campouts, or just a little get together throughout the year please let me know. This is your program and I want to make it as special for you and your child as others have made it for me and mine.

Here's to a Great Year Trail Nation!!

May the Great Spirit be with you today and everyday!

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

"Rainbow Trout" (Molly) - Trailmate



Carnival

*Saturday, September 8, 9am-1pm
YMCA South Cooper Branch*

Trails Rafting Trip

September 21-23

Rockin' R New Braunfels

New Dad's Orientation

*Tuesday, September 25, 7-9pm
Central YMCA Community Room*

Induction

*Saturday, September 29, 6:45 pm
Lake Arlington*



2200 S. Davis
Arlington, Texas 76013

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ORGANIZATION

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For Youth Development
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ON-LINE REGISTRATION

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