

March 2013

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Recruitment...

Recruit new members for this season and get a recruitment patch for every new participant! Remember, this program thrives by all of us sharing our enjoyment with friends.

Online Registration

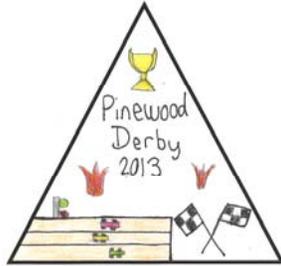
Program & Event registration is available at

ymca-arlington.org



Upcoming Events...

* See complete calendar on page 2 *



Pinewood Derby

March 2, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

YMCA South Cooper Branch

Cost: \$10 for 1st kit, \$6 each additional child, \$4 for extra kit, \$6 for Dads kit
Papoose Guides, Princess, Trail

Family Campout

March 22—24

Tyler State Park

Bring Mom on this campout for some outdoor fun! Sign Up Now!!!



Papoose Field Day

April 13

River Legacy Park

Nature Science Center

Guided Nature Tour & Picnic!!

More details to come!

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: Mike Ginani 469.767.3051

Asst. Federation Chief: Tim Ackermann 214.477.9098

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

Program Calendar

YMCA Father/Child Program Events Calendar 2012-2013

Events	Papoose	Princess	Guides	Trail
	3-5 Yrs	K-3rd	K-3rd	4th & up
Bad Königshofen Event	26-May	26-May	26-May	26-May
4th of July Parade (Arlington)	4-Jul	4-Jul	4-Jul	4-Jul
New Chief's Orientation	17-Jul	17-Jul	17-Jul	17-Jul
Dive In Movie Central Y	28-Jul	28-Jul	28-Jul	28-Jul
Little Chiefs Longhouse	21-Aug	21-Aug	21-Aug	21-Aug
Carnival	8-Sep	8-Sep	8-Sep	8-Sep
New Dad's Orientation	25-Sep	25-Sep	25-Sep	25-Sep
Induction	YMCA	YMCA	YMCA	YMCA
	29-Sep	29-Sep	29-Sep	29-Sep
Fall Campout Event	Lake Arlington	Lake Arlington	Lake Arlington	Lake Arlington
	Oct 5-7	Oct 12-14	Oct 19-21	Rescheduled
Haunted Trail	Lake Mineral Well S.P.	Eisenhower S.P.	Fairfield S.P.	for Spring Campout
Papoose Train Ride Event	27-Oct	27-Oct	27-Oct	27-Oct
Federation Community Day	10-Nov	10-Nov	10-Nov	10-Nov
Turkey Shoot	17-Nov	17-Nov	17-Nov	17-Nov
Princess Event		11-Jan		
		Night at the Zoo		
Arlington Parade of Lights	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec	1-Dec
Papoose Christmas Party	16-Dec			
Federation Winter Campout	Jan 25-27	Jan 25-27	Jan 25-27	Jan 25-27
	Loyd Park	Loyd Park	Loyd Park	Loyd Park
Daddy Daughter Date Night		8-Feb		
Father-Son Event			23-Feb	
			Monster Truck Jam	
Federation Fund Raiser Dinner	11-May	11-May	11-May	11-May
	Shady Valley CC	Shady Valley CC	Shady Valley CC	Shady Valley CC
Pinewood Derby	2-Mar	2-Mar	2-Mar	2-Mar
Family Campout	Mar 22-24	Mar 22-24	Mar 22-24	Mar 22-24
	Tyler S.P.	Tyler S.P.	Tyler S.P.	Tyler S.P.
Papoose Field Day	13-Apr			
Spring Campout Event	May 3-5	Apr 19-21	Apr 5-7	May 17-19
	Purtis Creek S.P.	Cooper Lake S.P.	Ray Roberts S.P. -Johnson	Rockin "R" Rafting
Rocket Shoot	11-May	11-May	11-May	11-May
Chief's Appreciation Dinner	21-May	21-May	21-May	21-May

Updated: 01-21-2013

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.blackland-prairie.org/calendar_embed.html **



YA TA HEY BLACKLAND PRAIRIE FEDERATION!

This is my first smoke signal article as Federation Chief. I'd like to start by acknowledging what a wonderful job Chris Elkins did in this role. He truly cares about this program. As his assistant, I always felt that he was giving his very best to the program and never coasted. Kudos Chris! In addition, I want to thank Tim Ackermann for being my assistant. He is a great Papoose Nation Chief and I have no doubt that he will be a great future Federation Chief.



This is a very exciting time to be part of our program. I am extremely impressed with the number of Dads who are willing to step-up and help the program. In addition, our program is now playing a more prominent role within the Arlington YMCA. More employees understand the program and are bringing it up to potential new recruits. Financially, the health of the Father/Child Program has been adequate but our membership numbers have been declining from year to year. Now is the time for us to seize the opportunity to improve our program. How do we do this? The first step starts with every member making a commitment to strengthen the bond with their children by participating in and ensuring that each event can be the best it can be. This may require us to change some events up and think outside the box.

In the spirit of that commitment, we are making a major change to our Fundraiser this year. The event will be held on **Saturday, May 11th at 7-11pm at Shady Valley Country Club**. The event is a Casino Night and is open to our members as the general public. Your ticket will include finger foods, beer and margaritas. In addition, there will be a cash bar for other beverages. There will be music, a silent auction, raffles and great prizes. Tickets are \$40 each if purchased before April 1st. You can purchase tickets on the Father/Child section of the YMCA website or stop by any branch. Please put this on your calendar now. It would be a good idea to start arranging babysitters. It will be a great night!

As always, we need each member to help us out with donations small and large. Our fundraising letter is on the Blackland Prairie Federation website: <http://www.blackland-prairie.org/> Simply stop by any business and present the letter and ask if they would be willing to make a donation or become a sponsor. I think you will find that most businesses want to help. This is also a great way for them to advertise to our members who are a very valuable target market. I am asking a lot of our members. My commitment is that I will give my very best as Federation Chief. My goal is to have every member excited about the program and feel that they are receiving a great value. More new ideas will be forthcoming.

Below are our upcoming events:

Pinewood Derby – March 2nd at the South Arlington YMCA, Check-in is March 1st from 7-9pm and March 2nd at least 1 hour prior to your race.
Family Campout – March 22-24th, Tyler State Park

Sincerely,
Teaching Bear (Mike Ginani)
Dancing Daisy (Madison)
Running Bear (Andrew)

Ya Ta Hey Mighty Papoose Nation!

Our calendar is heating up, Papoose Nation! We will race Pinewood Derby cars in just a few days and have our Family Campout just weeks after that.

Then, in April, we are having a new event: Papoose Field Day. I know that some of my best campout memories are from hikes I take with my girls, or that we do as a tribe. We're combining that idea with directed learning about the nature we see as we walk. Come join us!



What have we been up to? The Papoose Nation joined the rest of the Federation at the Winter Campout. Although it was a *little* chilly, our daughters and sons enjoy being with their dads and their friends. They climbed trees, played in the forest, went on hikes with Dad and snuggled up when it was cold. What more could you ask for?

So, I'll say it again: give your friends and neighbors and other parents at your school that opportunity; ask them to join us. Aren't you glad someone asked you?

Finally, we have many upcoming events, including one in just days!

Pinewood Derby – Saturday, March 2nd (South Cooper Y). You can still get cars at any of the Y Branches. Show off your sawing, sanding and painting skills! You do not have to be an master woodworker – your kid will love what you make together!

Family Campout – March 22-24th. We are traveling to beautiful Tyler State Park this year, which has beautiful tall pines and a pretty lake. We are also planning activities this year (which we do not always): a dessert social, games, geocaching and a movie night. Register now and come on out!

Papoose Field Day – April 13th. This is a new Papoose Nation event, which we'll have at Arlington's beautiful River Legacy Park. First, we'll have a guided nature exploration with a naturalist from the Living Science Center. Then we're planning a picnic out in the park! More details to come, but this is a perfect event for inviting someone you think might be interested in our program.

Spring Campout – May 3-5th. Save the date – we're finishing up the year at Pur-tis Creek!

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!

2013 is off to a great start with two big events already behind us.

We were definitely blessed with fantastic weather for **Federation Winter Camp Out** at Joe Pool Lake. It was great to have the Critter Guy back for a couple of shows this year. He is always a crowd favorite with his usual assortment of snakes, toads, turtles, lizards, spiders and other interesting creatures. We also started what we hope to be a new tradition, with the Saturday Night Chili Cook Off. Thanks to everyone who participated and special thanks to all of our judges. As a reminder, fire safety is crucial at all of our camp outs. Please make sure this is a point of emphasis within your tribes and with your children.

Daddy Daughter Date Night was held at the Arlington Hilton for the second consecutive year. What a huge success! This is by far my favorite program event. There is nothing better than a night on the town, dinner and dancing, with my two beautiful daughters. I hope each of you had as much fun as we did. Thanks to Karankawa and Wichita for taking on War Chief Duties and helping to make this a special event for everyone. Special thanks go out to our old Nation Chief, Rob Williams, our awesome Daddy Daughter Deejay. He had the dance floor packed all night. I can't wait for Daddy Daughter Date Night 2014!

March, April, and May are coming up fast and that means more great events:

Pinewood Derby - March 2– Put those final touches on your cars. As always, I'm sure we will have significant Princess Nation presence during the Trophy presentations. Our little ladies and their Dads can build some really fast and creative cars. Please note a location change here. The Pinewood Derby will be held at the YMCA South Cooper location this year.

Family Camp Out - March 22-24 – This year we are returning to a favorite location – Tyler State Park. Sign up as soon as possible to help us with site planning.

Princess Spring Camp Out - April 19-21 - We typically visit Cooper Lake State Park in the Fall, but this year we are all looking forward to holding our Spring Campout here.

Federation Fundraiser - May 11 – As a reminder, we are completely revamping the format of the fundraiser event for 2013. Go ahead and mark your calendars for May 11 at Shady Valley Country Club. Please spread the word to your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers, so that we can ensure a big turnout. Auction item donations are also important, so please get those turned in to Tim Cameron as quickly as possible.

I wanted to again recognize all of those who have volunteered to assist with program events during the year. We wouldn't have a successful program without the efforts of all of our volunteer dads. Thanks to each and every one of you!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming events!

Old Gray Bear (David George)

BLACK OWL (Brian Bolton)

Snow Panther (Ella George-Princess)

DANCING RAINBOW (Grace Bolton)

Dancing Squirrel (Anna George - Trail)

Black Bear (Jake George - Trail)

YaTaHey Mighty Braves in the Guides Nation!

This year's program got off to a great start last month with the Winter Campout. We had good weather for the campout and lots of fun activities. We welcomed back the critter guy and added a chili cook-off. The chili cook-off was a great success as we had over 25 entries in the contest. Combining the contest with a second movie night was a great idea. Thanks to the Blackfoot tribe for hosting the movie nights. As an added bonus, the bonfire included fireworks, which is always s a crowd pleaser.

As you read this you will probably be thinking about what a great success the Monster Jam was. It is an event that really has created a buzz. Maybe we can add this to our calendar and go to it every year.



I hope everyone has their Pinewood Derby cars ready, as the event is next weekend. The races are March 2nd at the Cooper Street branch of the Y. If you want your car to be judged for appearance, they need to be at the Y between 7pm and 9pm on Friday night. If you are only concerned about racing, make sure to be at the Y one hour before your scheduled race time.

Make sure you plan to attend the Family Campout at Tyler State Park March 22nd-24th. We are making our return to Tyler after a few years. It is a beautiful park with plenty of amenities. We are planning on bringing some of our regular activities to this campout, including movie night, geocache, dessert social, and some "Olympic" events.

The Guides Nation will have their final campout of the year April 5th-7th. We are going to the Johnson Branch Unit at Lake Ray Roberts. This campground is on the North side of the lake and is a new venue for the Guides. I can feel those water balloons already.

We continue to work on details for the fundraiser at Shady Valley Country Club. The fundraiser will be on Saturday, May 11 from 7-11pm. We hope to bring back some "fun" to this event and make it an annual event. We will have a casino night, raffle, silent auction, food and drinks. Tickets should be available for purchase on the Y website soon. Tickets are \$40 per person now, but will be going up as the event gets closer. Please get with your tribe mates and try to come up with auction/raffle items that might create some excitement. Let's try to think "outside the box" and make this year's event something special.

Jeff Godbold (Silver Eagle)

Guides Nation Chief

Evan (Running Leopard)

Steve Hartung (Soaring Eagle)

Guides Assistant Nation Chief

Gabe (Snowy Rabbit)

YaTaHey Mighty Trail Nation!

What a great Federation Winter Campout this year! The weather was perfect. The turnout was great with a mix of old and new members, as well as a few guests. There was a first at this campout, with the tire changing instruction given by Pat and Gene. I am still looking for that patch, but it has yet to be found. The first ever chili cook-off was a success with lots of entries, and lots of heartburn that night.

A few enjoyed the yearly night out with our daughters. Another successful event for sure. It is amazing to just look back one year at pictures, and see how these young ladies have grown and matured. A truly great event to build that relationship with your daughter.

Now comes the spring with many events to keep us all busy until school is out. So mark those calendars now so you do not miss out on the time spent with your child.

The Pinewood Derby kicks things off. This year it will be at the South Cooper Y on Saturday March 2nd. Kits are available at all branch locations, so get there and start designing those winning cars.

The Family Campout returns to Tyler State Park March 22nd – 24th. Bring mom so she can experience all of the fun we have on campouts. There will be a desert social Saturday night to enjoy some fellowship with the rest of the federation.

The Spring Campout is May 17th – 19th on the Guadalupe. Pray to the great spirit to bring those spring rains so the river has some flow and excitement to it. Look for specials on water guns, as I hear a few dads already have targets on their backs.

More to come on this campout as we get closer.

I am happy to report that Richard Perez – Long Bow and his Trailmate Erica – Tiger Lily, have stepped up to be the Trails Nation Chief this next year. I know I will leave you in good hands as he has been an excellent tribe chief of the Blackfoot Guides. Three kudos to Richard and Erica!

Make the memories now, as the time will be gone before you know it.

Kitatama'sino (“See you later” in Blackfoot)

“Big Trout” (Brian Murphy) - Trail Nation Chief

“Rainbow Trout” (Molly) – Trailmate





PINEWOOD DERBY



This event is designed to be fun and to provide a way for you and your child to spend quality time together by shaping a racing car from a block of "Pine" wood. By working together as a team to design, plan, shape, and decorate the car, you will have an opportunity to know your child better and improve their skills and knowledge. Help your child to see that there is more to this event than winning and losing.

Races will be conducted within five divisions: Pre K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade and 4th Grade and Above.



Speed trophies will be awarded for the first, second, third and fourth place finishes in each of the five divisions.



The fastest four cars in each division will compete in a runoff for a *Grand Champion Speed* trophy.

Trophies will also be awarded in each division for *Most Indian Like*, *Most Unique* and *Best of Show*.



All cars should be newly constructed for this year's race. The reentry of cars that were constructed for previous year's races or handed down from older siblings or friends is not in keeping with the spirit of this event.

See you at the Big Race on Saturday, Saturday, Saturday!!!

**BLACKLAND PRAIRIE FEDERATION
LEADERSHIP**

YMCA of Arlington

Father Child Programs

Pinewood Derby Race Information

This event is designed to be fun and to provide a way for you and your child to spend quality time together. By working together as a team to design, plan, shape, and decorate the car, you will have an opportunity to know your child better and improve their skills and knowledge. Help your child to see that there is more to this event than winning and losing. All cars should be newly constructed for this year's race. The reentry of cars that were constructed for previous year's races or handed down from older siblings or friends is not in keeping with the spirit of this event.

This year's pinewood derby event will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 2013, at the Central YMCA. Races will be conducted within six divisions: Pre K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade and Above, and Dads Only. **All cars must complete registration at least 1 hour prior to the start of the child's division.** The scheduled start times for the races in each division are:

<u>Pre K</u>	<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>1st Grade</u>	<u>2nd Grade</u>	<u>3rd Grade</u>	<u>4th Grade & above</u>	<u>Grand Champion</u>
9:30a.m.	10:30a.m.	11:30 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:45 p.m.

This year we will also have a Dads Race following the Grand Champion race and awards presentation, at 3:30pm. All requirements on this Race Info sheet must be met. See rules sheet for other specifics. The winner of the dad's division will receive a Grand Champion trophy.

Speed trophies will be awarded for the first, second, third and fourth place finishes in each of the five child divisions. The fastest four cars in each division will compete in a runoff for a *Grand Champion Speed* trophy. Trophies will also be awarded in each division for *Most Indian Like*, *Most Unique* and *Best of Show*. Cars must appear as if a child was involved in the design/construction to be eligible. **If you would like for your car to be considered for appearance awards it must be checked in by 9pm on Friday night the 1st of March!**

The computerized race format based upon a "low point" scoring system will be used again this year.

Points are awarded for first through sixth place finishes in each race. 1 point for first through 6 points for sixth place.

Each car will race in every lane at least once, accumulating points as they compete. This assures that every car will run in at least six division races, unless there are less than 6 cars in a division.

The six cars within a division with the lowest number of points will run in a series of races to determine the division champion. Accumulated point totals from all prior races will be set to zero. These cars will run six races, each in a different lane. The car with the fewest points after the six races is the first place winner and so on. Ties for a given place will be broken by a sudden death race.

The race format for the Grand Champion will be the same as that for the division championship.

Good Luck, but most importantly, have a good time!

The "Fine" Print

All efforts have been made to ensure that the events are run as fairly as possible. The race committee, however, reserves the right to make changes in the race format as circumstances dictate. Their decisions will be final.



Pinewood Derby

March 2 **South Cooper YMCA**

Family Campout

March 22-24 Tyler SP

Papoose Field Day

April 13 River Legacy Park Nature Center

Spring Campouts

Starting April 5 through May 17

Various locations around our great state!!



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Arlington, Texas 76013

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For Healthy Living



ON-LINE REGISTRATION

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