

June 2013

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Federation Chief	3
Papoose Chief	4
Princess Chief	5
Guides Chief	6
Trail Chief	7

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 *



New Chief Orientation

June 18, 7pm
YMCA Central Branch
 For Incoming Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs

July 4th Parade

July 4, 9am
Downtown Arlington
 Come decorate and ride on the float! All Nations welcome.



Annual Carnival

Early September, 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, coworkers, and family.

Elder: **Brian Hill**
 Elder: David Adams
 Elder: Jeff Cloud 817-360-0611

Elder: Mike Ginani 469.767.3051
 Elder: **Bill Darroch** 214.274.8253
 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: Jason Slackney
Princess Chief: Brian Bolton

Guides Chief: Steve Hartung
Trail Chief: Richard Perez

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	Oct 26-28
Haunted Trail	Lake M... Well S.P.	Lake M... Well S.P.	Lake M... Well S.P.	Lake M... Well S.P.
Papoose Train				
Federation Co				
Turkey Shoot				17-Nov
Princess Eve				
Arlington Pa			1-Dec	1-Dec
Papoose Ch				
Federation V			Jan 25-27	Jan 25-27
Daddy Daug		Loyd Park	Loyd Park	Loyd Park
Father-Son		8-Feb		
Federation			23-Feb	Monster Truck Jam
Pinewood	11-May	11-May	11-May	11-May
Family Campout	Shady Valley CC	Shady Valley CC	Shady Valley CC	Shady Valley CC
Papoose Field Day	2-Mar	2-Mar	2-Mar	2-Mar
Spring Campout Event	Mar 22-24	Mar 22-24	Mar 22-24	Mar 22-24
Rocket Shoot	Tyler S.P.	Tyler S.P.	Tyler S.P.	Tyler S.P.
Chief's Appreciation Dinner	13-Apr			
	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
	11-May	11-May	11-May	11-May
	21-May	21-May	21-May	21-May

NEW CALENDAR COMING

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!

It's been a busy Spring so far. Campouts are now behind us and we just had our Rocket Shoot. Congrats to the design winners and big thanks to the Blackfoot Tribe for putting on a great event! We also had our annual fundraiser. I thought it might be a good idea to take some time to explain how this year's fundraiser came to be:



The idea started at last year's fundraiser. As you probably know, we historically have had our fundraiser at Boles Junior High School's cafeteria. The event consisted of raising money through a cake walk, silent auction, raffle ticket sales and event ticket sales. In years past, the cafeteria would be full and it was good to see the kids having a great time. In recent years, attendance at the event dwindled and our fundraising suffered. A group of dads at last year's event were saddened at how empty the cafeteria was. They vowed to do something new in order to rekindle a buzz for our program.

Thanks to the leadership of the P.R. Committee, Brad Millican, Jeff Godbold, Tim Ackerman, Tim Cameron, Pam Webb, Karen Tecklenberg, Chris Elkins, and myself, the idea was born to have an adults only event in an attempt to do something new that could also be exciting for the wives of our program. The event took place at Shady Valley Country Club. There was a casino, silent auction, music, food and beverage. I am pleased to report that it was a huge success! Ticket sales far exceeded expectations and so did the funds we raised. We raised more than 2 ½ times what was raised at the previous year's fundraiser! In addition, it was a great time and very clear that the wives greatly enjoyed the event.

As a result of the funds raised, you will be able to see a better value from our program. Ideas (I welcome them!) are already being thrown around on how to improve each and every event in our program, always with the notion of providing more opportunities for fathers to spend quality time with their children.

With that in mind, our next major event is the Arlington 4th of July Parade. We will have a float in the parade and all dads and children are invited to ride/walk in it. As always, we will need volunteers to help build the float. Check your email for further details. Don't miss this event. I can't think of a better way to showcase our program to the families of Arlington. See you there!

Upcoming Events:

New Chief's Orientation – Tuesday, June 18th, 7pm at the Central YMCA

Fourth of July Parade – Thursday, July 4th

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

Ya Ta Hey Mighty Papoose Nation!

First, let me say I am honored to be your new Papoose Nation Chief! Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Jason Slackney. I am the father of two boys, and now my wife is expecting a girl. My son Alexander (Lion Heart) and I have been in the Eagle Tribe since its inception and this past year my younger son Grant (Big Lightning) joined the program. In the three years we've been in the program, I've been rewarded numerous times with remarkable moments with both of my sons. And I look forward to more of those opportunities in this coming year.



This past month we had two great program events. On the morning of May 11, we gathered at River Legacy Park to shoot for the stars! Our annual Rocket Shoot had a great showing & there was an impressive mixture of rocketry on display. That evening we gathered for the 'Casino Night' program fundraiser. The venue was packed and there was a palpable excitement in the air; look for additional details on this event elsewhere in this edition of the Smoke Signal.

Papoose Nation is unique in that after two or three years often times the Dad and child graduate to the Princess or Guides program. I would encourage everyone who is interested in leadership positions to approach your Tribe Chief and mention your interest. During the summer discuss your interest with your Chief, and identify a place in your tribe that you can contribute. Summertime has traditionally been a slow time for the Father Child program; however, I would ask that you try to get your tribes together for monthly meetings.

Upcoming Event:

Arlington 4th of July Parade – planning information for the design and decoration of the program float can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Smoke Signal.

Every program member can look for opportunities to expose friends and neighbors to our program. With fewer stresses associated with school activities; summer can be an ideal time to introduce a new activity for their children.

Until we meet again...

Eagle Eye (Jason Slackney) Papoose Nation Chief

Lion Heart (Alexander Slackney)

Big Lightning (Grant Slackney)

Ya-ta-hey Mighty Princess Nation!

Those of you whom attended the Federation Fundraiser enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun. Big “KUDOS” go out to Chris Elkins, Mike Ginani, and Tim Cameron for spearheading the Fundraiser’s new format. What a night! The Princess Nation cleaned up on the Silent and Live Auctions items. Despite Rob Williams’ (former Princess Nation Chief) valiant efforts to get folks dancing, the dance floor went unused; discussions are underway regarding a breakdancing competition for next year’s event, or, perhaps if anyone just absolutely *missed* having the cake walk, you may see that activity rise up from among the ashes. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the Program, and thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Fundraiser Event a successful, profitable evening.

The Rocket Shoot Event held earlier that day made for a fun morning, as our Princesses, whom had toiled hard with our “assistance”, launched off their rockets, which slipped the surly bonds of Earth and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings. “KUDOS” go out to all of the Princesses for your participation.

Much thanks to Rob Walker and the [Blackfoot](#) Guides for War-chiefting the Rocket Shoot, and to all of you whom came out to make the Event successful and enjoyable.

The BIG Program event to put on your calendars for the summer is the Arlington Independence Day Parade. I’ll leave it to each of you to deduce when that event actually occurs. We have entered a float into this year’s Parade, as is custom, and WE NEED YOUR HELP. Float construction will occur the week prior; stay tuned for specific details regarding the design and construction schedules. Many hands make light work! We also invite you and your kiddos to ride on the float as Program members. This makes for a fun-filled morning. *Don’t all Princesses want to ride on a float and wave at admirers?* Yes, it’s hot outside. No, the leather vests aren’t constructed with the most lightweight, breathable material. And yes, the girls have a BLAST! I’m obligated to share an old picture, with Grace Bolton and Annelise Vinson, both now in Karankawa.



Put it on your calendar to attend, and please make yourself available to lend a hand in construction efforts when those details come down the pipe.

THE “TRIBE OF THE YEAR POINTS” METER IS RUNNING! Stay on top of the meetings and the bead deeds. One way to get Tribe points is by recruiting new members into your tribe. Guys: we’re all pretty much cut out of the same cloth, and we get a kick out of the activities we engage in with our girls. We joined this Program, and continue to stay in this Program, for a reason. There’s more to this Program than just campouts, though. By showcasing that you are involved in an active tribe, you’re more likely to attract the attention of new dads whom are looking for something new to do with their girls; something I’ll continue to address with you is to “get back to the basics.” Work the deeds, have the meeting, and follow the Program activities. You and your Princess will both get more out of the Program, and you’ll show new dads what they can do *BESIDES* camping. Again, an involved, engaged Tribe is a successful tribe!

PROGRAM FEES ALERT: The Y’s new policy on Program fees is great! If you’ve got a full family membership at the Arlington YMCA, you don’t pay program fees. This development is an effective tool for boosting membership and for recruiting new members. No longer will we be tapped for Program fees; moreover, dads whom are *already* members of the Arlington YMCA may join the Program for no additional cost. Thank you to the Arlington Y for implementing this policy; I know we’re all thankful!

This is *OUR* Program. We have taken it upon ourselves to carve time out of our schedules so that we may have a unique opportunity to have dedicated, quality time with our daughters. In that regard, if any of you have any questions or concerns, or have any ideas about upcoming events, please let me know! In the meantime, may the Great Spirit continue to bless us all...



BLACK OWL, Princess Nation Chief (Brian Bolton)
DANCING RAINBOW (Grace Bolton)
SMILING TURTLE (Madeleine Bolton)



YaTaHey Mighty Guides Nation!

Summer is finally here... I'm not sure which gave it away, between the braves being more restless than usual in their last days of school, or that daylight hours keep getting longer!

But now that summer has finally arrived, I think it is appropriate to give thanks for all that has transpired in the past year.

First and foremost, Three Kuddo's to Evan and Jeff Godbold for a fantastic year in the Guides program! 2nd, thanks to Chris Elkins, the Council of Elders, the staff at the YMCA and to each and every-one of you for volunteering to help make the YMCA Father/Child program a success!

Since the last newsletter, the Federation has been very active and it was fantastic to see so many Guides participating. First there was the Rocket Shoot at River Legacy Park. The Great Wind Spirit graced us with several 'running' exercises for our Braves as they tracked down the rockets that had their parachutes opened! Several Little Braves went home tired and smiling that day.

Later that night, the Father/Child Program had its annual fundraiser. This year, the event was changed-up a little bit to be a *parent's event*. There were auctions, food, casino games a DJ with the net proceeds benefiting the Program. The fundraiser was a big success and enjoyed by all in attendance. A job well done by all those that donated their time to this effort.

The last Nation event was the Trails Spring Campout at the Rockin'R River Rides in New Braunfels. It was great to see many from the Guides Nation as the Little Braves start their journey towards being a member of Trails!

Upcoming events this month include New Chief Orientation on the 18th of June and the 4th of July Parade: All new Guides Chiefs and those thinking about wanting to be a Chief will be meeting on the 18th at the Central Y for new Chief orientation. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about how to be a better chief for your tribe! Then, leading up to the 4th, we'll have opportunities to help build the 4th of July float, all culminating into marching in the 4th of July parade!

Check out our next Smoke Signal issues as the Guides Nation starts to set the upcoming calendar's events!

Innaihtsi'iyi (Peace)

Soaring Eagle (Steve Hartung)

Snowy Rabbit (Gabriel Hartung)

Sleeping Bear (Kevin Hartung)

YaTaHey Mighty Trail Nation!

Thank you for the privilege of representing the Trail Nation as Chief for the 2013/2014 year! I want to thank outgoing Nation Chief Brian Murphy for a great year and wish him luck with his relocation to Kerrville Texas.

This will be my 5th year in the program having been in Papoose, Princess and the Guides programs with my daughter Erika (13) and son John (9).

Spring is a busy time for the Trail Nation. We are just got back from the **Spring Rafting Trip** on the Guadalupe River. Camp Rockin "R" was a great host and we got to do some tubing on the Comal River as well. The river was still down from levels of a few years ago, but it was still very enjoyable.



As current Trail members already know, the types of trips the Trail undertakes are geared more towards older kids, with longer duration and more strenuous activities. Some of the activities I look forward to are; rafting, canoeing, tubing, rock climbing/ rappelling. We have done these activities on

the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers, Caddo Lake and Enchanted Rock. We can take these trips because the kids are older and more self-sufficient. But they also require more upfront planning to coordinate the itinerary, plan for transportation and lodging, etc.

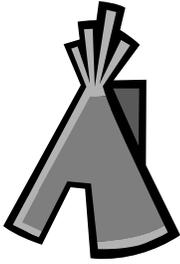
Don't forget the upcoming **4th of July Parade**. Contact me for more info on decorating the float. The Carnival will be here again before we know it (September 7th). I am not as mechanically inclined as previous Nation Chiefs so I will need help setting up and manning the rope bridge.



I am still searching for an Assistant Nation Chief; contact me if you are interested.

Thanks Guys and Gals! Here's to a Great Year!

Richard Perez (Longbow)
Trail Nation Chief - 817-691-5220
Erika (Tigerlilly) Trail Mate
John (Brave Tomahawk) Guides



New Chief Orientation

June 18 YMCA Central Branch

7 pm



Arlington 4th of July Parade

July 4 Downtown Arlington 9 am



2200 S. Davis
Arlington, Texas 76013

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE
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ARLINGTON, TX



For Youth Development
For Healthy Living



ON-LINE REGISTRATION

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