

Feb 2014

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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.

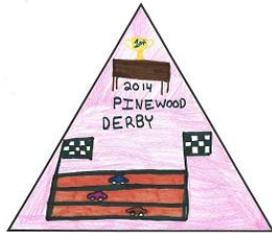


REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM



Upcoming Events...

* See complete calendar on page 2 *



Pinewood Derby

March 1, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
YMCA North Arlington Branch
 Cost: \$10 for 1st kit, \$6 each additional child, \$4 for extra kit "just in case"

Family Campout

March 21-23

Cooper Lake SP, Sulphur Springs

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



Papoose Field Day

April 5

**River Legacy Park
 Nature Science Center**

Guided Nature Tour & Picnic!!
 More details to come!

Elder: **Chris Elkins** 817-999-3311
 Elder: David Adams 214-244-4729
 Elder: Jeff Cloud 817-360-0611

Elder: **Jeff Godbold** 817-919-5509
 Elder: Bill Darroch 214.274.8253
 Elder: **Brian Tecklenburg**

Elder: **Mike Ginani** 469.767.3051

Bold names are new elders this year.

Federation Chief: Tim Ackermann 214.477.9098 **Asst. Federation Chief:** Brad Millican

Program Manager: Jordan Taylor 817.419.9629

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 2013-2014

| Events | Papoose | Princess | Guides | Trail |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | 3-5 Yrs | K-3rd | K-3rd | 4th & up |
| <i>New Chief's Orientation</i> | 18-Jun | 18-Jun | 18-Jun | 18-Jun |
| <i>4th of July Parade (Arlington)</i> | 4-Jul | 4-Jul | 4-Jul | 4-Jul |
| <i>Little Chiefs Longhouse</i> | 20-Aug | 20-Aug | 20-Aug | 20-Aug |
| <i>Carnival</i> | 7-Sep | 7-Sep | 7-Sep | 7-Sep |
| <i>New Dad's Orientation</i> | 17-Sep | 17-Sep | 17-Sep | 17-Sep |
| <i>Induction</i> | Cooper YMCA | Cooper YMCA | Cooper YMCA | Cooper YMCA |
| | 28-Sep | 28-Sep | 28-Sep | 28-Sep |
| <i>Fall Campout Event</i> | Lake Arlington | Lake Arlington | Lake Arlington | Lake Arlington |
| | Oct 4-6 | Oct 11-13 | Oct 18-20 | Sept 13-15 |
| | Ray Roberts SP-Johnson Branch | Cedar Hill S.P. | Lake Whitney S.P. | Camp Grady Spruce |
| <i>Haunted Trail</i> | 26-Oct | 26-Oct | 26-Oct | 26-Oct |
| <i>Papoose Train Ride Event</i> | 26-Oct | | | |
| <i>Federation Community Day</i> | 9-Nov | 9-Nov | 9-Nov | 9-Nov |
| <i>Turkey Shoot</i> | 16-Nov | 16-Nov | 16-Nov | 16-Nov |
| <i>Arlington Parade of Lights</i> | 7-Dec | 7-Dec | 7-Dec | 7-Dec |
| <i>Papoose Christmas Party</i> | 15-Dec | | | |
| <i>Princess Event</i> | | 18-Jan | | |
| | | Ft Worth Zoo Overnight | | |
| <i>Federation Winter Campout</i> | Jan 31-Feb 2 | Jan 31-Feb 2 | Jan 31-Feb 2 | Jan 31-Feb 2 |
| | Loyd Park | Loyd Park | Loyd Park | Loyd Park |
| <i>Daddy Daughter Date Night</i> | | 8-Feb | | |
| <i>Father-Son Event</i> | | | 25-Apr | |
| | | | Perot Museum Overnight | |
| <i>Pinewood Derby</i> | 1-Mar | 1-Mar | 1-Mar | 1-Mar |
| <i>Papoose Field Day</i> | 5-Apr | | | |
| <i>Family Campout</i> | Mar 21-23 | Mar 21-23 | Mar 21-23 | Mar 21-23 |
| | Cooper Lake S.P. | Cooper Lake S.P. | Cooper Lake S.P. | Cooper Lake S.P. |
| <i>Spring Campout Event</i> | May 2-4 | Apr 11-13 | Mar 28-30 | April 25-27 |
| | Dinosaur Valley S.P. | Ray Roberts S.P. | Fort Parker S.P. | Rockin " R " Rafting |
| <i>Rocket Shoot</i> | 10-May | 10-May | 10-May | 10-May |
| <i>Federation Fund Raiser Dinner</i> | 10-May | 10-May | 10-May | 10-May |
| | Shady Valley CC | Shady Valley CC | Shady Valley CC | Shady Valley CC |
| <i>Chief's Appreciation Dinner</i> | 20-May | 20-May | 20-May | 20-May |
| | | Updated: 2-17-2014 | | |

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!

First, a big thank you to Teaching Bear (Mike Ginani) and his little chiefs for a job well done: YATAHEY! And we welcome Big Bear Claw (Brad Millican) as our new Assistant Federation Chief!

We have one big event coming up right away—Pinewood Derby! The races are this coming Saturday, March 1st, at the NORTH COLLINS Y (not South Cooper). It's not too late get a car (at any of the Y Branches)—last year one of the dads bought a car on Friday, and brought it for judging that evening! Make a car with your child and come have fun at the races!



So, what have been doing? In January, we had our annual Winter Campout at Loyd Park. We had everything from beautiful spring breezes to freezing rain, along with historical songs, geocaching and kickball. And, last but not least, we had our annual Federation bonfire. There we recognized the driving force behind our program: Dads spending quality time with their children. That was our corn ceremony, in which our dads and kids pledged to love and guide, and to listen and obey.

This month, the Princess Nation put on their Daddy Daughter Date Night event for all of the girls of our Federation. It was a beautiful event and the girls really enjoyed the music and dancing. And our DJ, former Princess Nation Chief Rob Williams, proved that our Princess girls will cooperate if given enough motivation....

Please give your friends and neighbors and your children's schoolmates the opportunity to have these experiences. They can join us at Pinewood Derby or at a Family or Spring Campout! Aren't you glad someone asked you?

Here are our upcoming events:

Pinewood Derby – Saturday, March 1st (NORTH COLLINS Y). Show off your sawing, sanding and painting skills!

Family Campout – March 21-23rd. We are staying closer to home this year: Cooper Lake State Park. We also expect to have a few activities this year, including geocaching, and the park is teaching an orienteering class. Register now and come on out!

Guides Campout – March 28-30th. More details to come, but sign up now for the Guides' trip to Fort Parker State Park.

Papoose Field Day – April 5th (new date). This is a Papoose Nation event, held at Arlington's beautiful River Legacy Park. It includes time with an animal, a guided nature exploration, and then time in the park with the other little ones at the Kite Festival. This is a perfect event for inviting someone you think might be interested in our program. Get signed up!

Fundraiser – May 10th. We had a great time at the Fundraiser last year, and also did well. We are building off last year's success—we are returning to Shady Valley C.C. and will again have a casino night, great prizes, and silent auction. PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR! And tell your friends – it's not restricted to Program parents.

I'm really proud of our people, and looking forward to a lot of fun times,

**Stalking Wolf (Federation Chief), Dancing Goose, Singing Tiger & Burning Phoenix
(Tim, Liesl, Roslyn & Signy Ackermann)**

Ya Ta Hey Mighty Papoose Nation!

In January we headed out for the Federation Winter Camp-out at Lloyd Park. For all who were able to make it we were rewarded with very nice weather for the first two days. On Sunday, it got a bit windy and a LOT colder! We all survived the arctic vortex, and the kids had a blast. Some of the best memories made in this program are from events with inclement weather.



We have the Pinewood Derby coming up on March 1st. Hopefully everyone is closing in on completing their derby cars. This is a great event to share the preparation, the work, and the thrill of racing a car with your Papoose. My boys still love to show off cars from previous years to their friends and we have fun pointing out the differences (good and bad) in the evolution of our derby car production efforts. It's great to have that reminder of our fun, and it's nice that the boys take such pride in them.

Later in March we have the Family Camp-out at Cooper Lake State Park. This event allows us to involve our wives and lets them experience the type of fun we get to have on camp-outs. Cooper Lake State Park is a beautiful park, I hope to see a lot of Papoose families out there!

Lastly, we have moved the date of our Papoose Field Day. This event is now scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 5th. We will visit the River Legacy Nature Science School, and then head to River Legacy Park to play some games and have some fun.

Consider people you would like to invite to a program event, now is the time to make the effort to contact them & encourage them to attend. Let's make every effort to grow the Papoose Nation.

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!

Wow! What an evening!

We've recently gathered at the Arlington Sheraton for our annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night, the zenith of our Nation's calendar. The KARANKAWA and WINNEBAGO tribes did a top-notch job war-chieving this event, and their efforts resulted with a magical Mardi Gras-themed party for our daughters. All of the girls looked beautiful in their party dresses and masks, as they danced (occasionally with us), and giggled, and once again reminded us how special they are to us dads. I hope that you all had a great evening; I've heard lots of positive feedback from many of you regarding the event. Because the Y cross-marketed DDDN, I'm fairly certain we'll pick up some new members into our Nation. We'll see how we can improve on this event even more next year.



On March 1, we're going to meet at the NORTH ARLINGTON Y for the 2014 Federation Pinewood Derby. Heats are broken down by age categories, and there will be awards for divisions, for overall speed from the winners in each division combined, as well as the "beauty pageant" awards for design. Please refer to the information in the Smoke Signal, as well as information forwarded from your Tribe Chiefs for up-to-the-minute details regarding the event. It is critical that you follow the "engineering rules and restrictions" when you work with your daughter building the car; the judges are rather particular about the regulations, so that no car has an unfair advantage against the others. The most important thing when building your car is to have fun together! My older daughter, Grace, still remembers 3 years ago when we went to the Y and ran her finished car on a treadmill for 20 or 30 minutes; she remembers 4 years ago when we built her car in a pop-up camper, sitting in the AISD parking lot (I had to find something to occupy my time for 3 weeks...). She doesn't remember multiplication tables, but remembers these other "important" things.

We've got Spring Campout set for April 11-13 at Ray Roberts SP (Johnson Branch); your Tribe Chief needs a replacement to step up and take over, if he doesn't already have one. For you Assistant Chiefs, when you take over, you'll need an Assistant as well. Guys: here's your chance to be more directly involved with what goes on with the Program, as well as taking a more active role in your daughter's experiences in the Program. I can assure you all that you and your daughter get as much as that which you put in. Think about volunteering. You will NOT be sorry that you did.

I'll see y'all at the next event.

We are a fortunate bunch...



BLACK OWL, Princess Nation Chief (Brian Bolton)

DANCING RAINBOW (Grace Bolton)

SMILING TURTLE (Madeleine Bolton)

YaTaHey Mighty Guides Nation!

I hope you enjoyed the warm weather on Saturday for the Winter Campout! I find it amazing how the Great Spirit can oversee our events and provide such great weather! (I'm still wondering if the Great Spirit fell asleep Saturday night for the rain, but, we need it!) Now that the Winter Campout is behind us, we start our busiest time of the year!

First-up, we have Pinewood Derby this Saturday! Check-in starts Friday night and race day begins on Saturday, but bragging rights last all year! Next-up is the Maverick's Game night on March 7th. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend with my little braves, but I hope several of you are able to take advantage of the special ticket prices to see the Mavericks!



Then we have the Family Campout on March 21st and the following weekend is the Guide's Spring Campout (March 28th) at Fort Parker State Park. If you have never been to Ft. Parker, I would suggest Googling the events that you and your brave can do at the historic Fort Parker which is located near-by.

It is at the Guide's Spring Campout that the Chiefly duties transfer to the Assistants (and the new Assistants)...it is also the time we celebrate not only the Hunter, Woodsman and Tracker Patches; we especially celebrate the greatest achievements of our Big & Little Braves, the Thunderbird and Silver Star Patches. Please let your chief know ASAP of all the awards that you and your little Brave have earned over the year!

Then, we get to rest for a few weeks before we finish the school year with a Bang!

On April 25th & 26th, we have the Father/Son Event at the Perot Museum of Science (Dallas). This is a sleep over event; please check with your chief for more information! And then, the Bang! On May 10th we have the Rocket Shoot and the Federation Fund-raiser!

This is the last article I will be writing as your Guides Nation Chief. I appreciate all your support that you have shown me over the past year. I wish Don Proctor, his brave (and princess) a great, fantastic and prosperous year!

Innaihstsi'iyi (Peace)

Soaring Eagle, Guides Nation Chief

Snowy Rabbit & Sleeping Bear, Chief's Little Braves

YaTaHey Mighty Trail Nation!

What a great Federation Winter Campout! The weather was mostly good, nice campsites and the turnout was great with a mix of old and new members, as well as a few guests. Something new this year was Brian Burns' historical songs on Friday night. Both Dads and Kids enjoyed his performance. The chili cook-off was a success with lots of entries, and lots of heartburn that night!



For those Trail Dads that attended the Daddy Daughter Date Night, I'm sure you will wholeheartedly agree that it was a special night for our "older" daughters to spend a nice evening out with their dad all dressed up and dancing with dad on the dance floor. Erika has been in the program for six years and it's amazing to just look back at pictures, and see how she has grown and matured. This is a truly great event to build that relationship with your daughter.

This time of year means getting ready for more outdoor activities in our Program, so make sure you don't miss out. As always, this spring we have great campouts scheduled.

The Pinewood Derby is March 1st and will be at the North Cooper YMCA, 1005 Skyline Drive, 76011 on Saturday March 1st. Kits are available at all branch locations, so get there and start designing those winning cars.

The Family Campout is March 21st – 23rd at Cooper Lake State Park. Bring mom so she can experience all of the fun we have on campouts.

The Spring Campout is April 25th – 27th on the Guadalupe River at the Rockin 'R. 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! There will be more to come on this campout as we get closer.

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

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

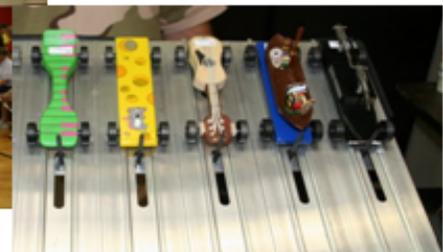


PINEWOOD DERBY



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 Program

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 1st, 2014, at the South Cooper YMCA. Races will be conducted within six divisions: Pre K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, and 4th Grade and Above. **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. |

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 28th of February!**

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 1, 9:30am - 3:30pm
South Cooper Arlington YMCA



Family Campout
March 21-23

Cooper Lake State Park

Papoose Field Day
April 5

River Legacy Park Nature Science Center, Arlington

Princess Spring Campout
April 11-13

Lake Ray Roberts State Park



7120 S. Cooper St.
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For Youth Development
For Healthy Living



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