

Livonia Family YMCA

Indian Guides

Smoke Signals



December 2003

Volume 35 Issue 4



Federation Chief Report

Seasons Greetings Guides!

Hope all of you are having a great holiday season and are enjoying this special time with your families. I want to say thanks to everyone that showed up at the Thanksgiving Day Parade. It was the warmest weather we have had in years and being at the front of the Parade was really nice. Hopefully the Y can get us up front again next year too...

continued on page 2

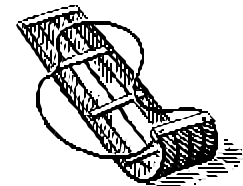
Upcoming Events

Winter Campout

Camp Pandalouan
(Muskegon)

Jan 16-18, 2004

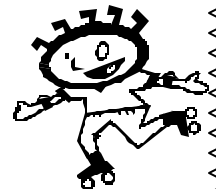
Registration due by Jan 9!



Roller Skating ~ Family Event

Saturday, Feb 7

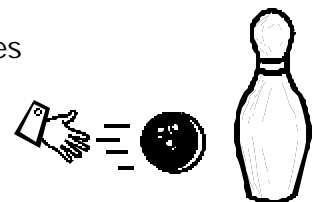
6-8PM



Bowling ~ Cloverlanes

Saturday, Feb 21

9am - Noon



In this issue:

- Camp registration
- Map to Camp Pandalouan
- Community Service

Get the latest calendar on the web at:

lyig.tripod.com

Federation Chief Report — Continued

Changes at the Y

Much is going on at the Y. A new Director has been assigned. Greg Wolcott comes to us from Missouri and is looking forward to helping the Guide program evolve into the Adventure Guides. In addition to the new Director, longtime Princess program member Rich Potchynok has replaced Rick Dunn, who is no longer with the Y. Let's all give a warm welcome to the new Staff.

Upcoming Events

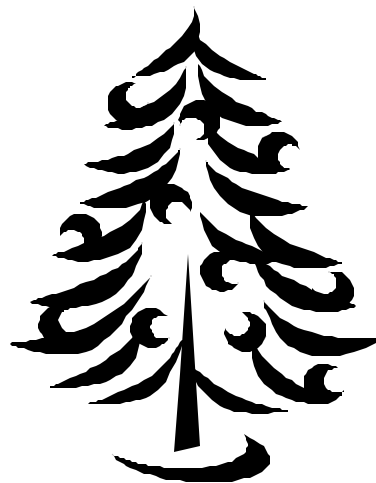
Is everyone ready for the Winter Fun Night? It is scheduled for December 13th (hopefully you will get this news letter before then). We are looking forward to a great evening as guests of the Y and the Buffalo nation. See you all there! The next event we have will be after the Christmas Holiday. We will have our winter campout at Camp Pandalouan. This is a new camp for the Livonia Guides, but being on the west side of the State, we expect a lot of snow for winter fun. We would also like to inform you that we have had a request from one little brave to not have peanut butter served at the campout. This brave is fatally allergic to peanut butter but would really like to have a camp experience that he can share with his father and tribe. As the Y is all about creating positive family experiences, we hope that all understand what this inconvenience means for some means to this young brave. It is hoped that this sacrifice can be accepted by everyone and that during the campout, we all remember to be thankful for our health.

One final note, if anyone has any prizes or an ability to obtain discount prizes for the spring banquet, please let me know.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pals Forever,

Silver Fox, Golden Fox, and Gray Wolf
Federation Chief



Assistant Federation Chief Report



I'm sure by now all of you have recuperated from all the Thanksgiving festivities and are now starting to gear up for the Christmas holiday! It's hard to believe that we are already getting into the second half of this year's Indian Guides program. A lot of activities have come and gone so far but we have plenty more planned after the Christmas holiday!

First up will be the Winter Campout at Camp Pandalouan on January 16-18 (please make sure you get to the YMCA and register by January 9). In February we will have the Skating event on the 7th and the Bowling event on the 21st. March will bring a Fun Night on the 20th and the Pine Car Derby on the 27th. We will conclude our year of events in May with the Father/Son Banquet (date TBD) and the Spring Campout at Camp Ohiyesa on May 21-23.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE: I still need your fundraising dollars! Please give your checks to tribal representatives that are Federation officers, Nation officers, or Tribal Scouts and have them bring it to the next Federation meeting. Also remember that you can mail checks made payable to "Livonia YMCA Indian Guides" to my home address.

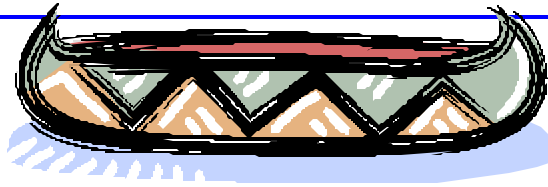
HELP! If anyone has any prizes or an ability to obtain discount prizes for the spring banquet, please let me know via e-mail.

Have a safe and Happy Christmas holiday with your family!

PALS Forever,

Howling Wolf, Running Tiger, and Swimming Fish





Canoe Nation Report of the Long Moon

The last moon of 2003 is appropriately called the Long Night Moon. We spend longer hours in our various long houses where we work, go to school, play, and sleep to seek comfort from the cold. We experience the longest night of the year around day 21 of this moon. It is a family moon, too, where many long houses are filled with families preparing for and celebrating the holidays. If you haven't turned in your fund raiser check you have waited too long and it becomes a longer night for our assistant federation chief trying to get this project closed which he was hoping to have completed before the Long Night Moon arrived. We have the opportunity to spend a long time having lots of fun in the YMCA Long House on Saturday, the 13th Day of the Long Moon, when we have the Fun Night of the Long Moon.

Our most colorful event of the year brought out guides from all the Livonia YMCA parent-child programs to trek, dance, chant, and hand out candy on the Plymouth trail in the Livonia Thanksgiving parade. It was great to have our former chief, Full Moon, march with us and share his enthusiasm with us once again. The Livonia Spree banner that he brought was supported by a distinctive Indian theme this year! This year we started moving out of the staging area before everyone arrived because we were near the front of the parade. Talking Rock took the pictures this year with his disposable camera which dad couldn't touch except to hold it while he was passing out candy. Talking Rock passed out candy about as quick as a rock and had to be encouraged to move along several times lest he be stepped on by the giant balloon that followed the guides down the parade trail. It took 8 Churchill football players to keep that balloon from stepping on Talking Rock.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fun Night. Bring a friend and show them just how worthwhile it is to set aside time to share between father and son! Guess what moon our Winter Campout will be watched by? That's right! The Snow Moon! Let's transition from our long house lodgings of the Long Night Moon for some Stupendous Snowy Fun at the Winter Campout in the wooly white light of the Snow Moon! Don't miss out!

In this Christmas season may the gift of Father and Son time that you give to each other strengthen the bond of love and build a strong relationship of trust that will serve as a framework that the next generation will want to continue to build upon.

Pals Forever,

Respectfully submitted
Running Deer
Straight Arrow
Talking Rock

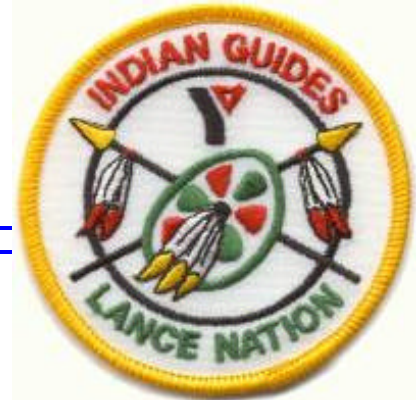


From the Crow's Nest

The mighty Crow wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to winter camp and are hoping for a lot of snow to really give us the opportunity to sled down a hill at full speed, then roll off and run back up to do it all again.

Your pals,

Big Chow and Tickle Tiger
Crow Scouts

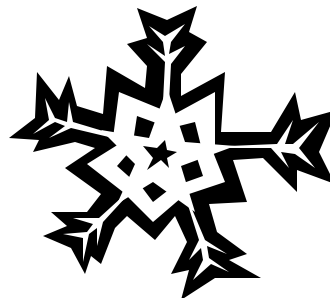


Lance Nation Speaks

Happy Holidays from the Great Lance Nation! We are challenging everyone to volunteer to help others without being asked. Instead of just clearing your driveway and sidewalk of the frozen water droplets, continue down the sidewalk a house or two on each side of yours and even clear that elderly neighbor's driveway. The cold winter season is upon us and is very hard for our elderly neighbors to get out and maintain their yards as needed.

This coming New Year is sure to have its ups and downs as most every other year. With the end of our Indian theme coming this spring to the newly formed Adventure program launch in the fall, we are challenged to not just keep doing what we have been doing in the past, but adapt a new exciting program that will be an improvement from the way it use to be done. A committee has been organized to oversee this transition, and if you have input or interest in volunteering, please let one of the officers know. We need all the help we can get to assure our programs success.

You're Pals,
Big Chow and Tickle Tiger
Lance Nation Chief



SACHEM SPEAKS

Hello to all Big and Little Braves,

We hope that you are all enjoying the holidays. Roller skating is coming up on Feb 7, 2004 6p.m. to 8p.m. at Riverside Arena. Pizza and pop are included.

This is a Family Event, bring your Parents, and your brother and sisters.

This event is also open to Maidens, and Princesses, so if you see any of them, please let them know they are invited.

As we approach the New Year, we must also think about our Federation Officer positions for the 2004-2005 year. Please contact me or our Chief Brian about this if you have any questions.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From your Sachems

Big Brown Grizzly, Little Brown Grizzly, and Little Running Bear



GET READY TO ... **BOWL!**

WHERE: CLOVERLANES
(on Schoolcraft in Livonia)

WHEN: Saturday, FEBRUARY 21, 2004

TIME: 9:00am 'til NOON

WHY: BIG BOWLING BOOMING (with Bumpers if requested)
FATHER and SON FUN!

Watch for registration info in next month's **Smoke Signals!**

MEDICINE MAN

Oh Great Spirit,

Bless our sacred circles as we begin this Holiday Season. May all of our Tribes find new feathers in their teepees to enjoy for the coming year. Guide our horses, wagons, and canoes safely as we visit our neighbors and relatives. Let our arrows find their targets so we have enough food to eat and share with others. And most of all - LET IT SNOW!

Pals Forever

Blue Horse, Fire Horse, and Water Horse
Medicine Man



TETON TRIBE TURNS INTO "GOODFELLOWS"



In last month's newsletter, one of our Federation Elders, Full Moon sent out urgent smoke signals looking for passionate and caring Indian Guides to help the Livonia Goodfellows this holiday season. The mighty Teton tribe answered this call on December 11 when we assisted the Goodfellows in helping other volunteers sort thousands of canned foods that had been donated over the past weeks. Each brave helped to sort all the different canned foods so that they could be re-packaged for needy families during the Christmas season.

Every brave worked very hard and was extremely proud to help others in need. The extra bonus on this night is earning the coveted Community Service patch for our efforts.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

PALS Forever,

Howling Wolf, Swimming Fish, and Running Tiger