

Livonia Family YMCA

Indian Guides

Smoke Signals



October 2003

Volume 35 Issue 2



Federation Chief Report

Greetings Guides! As with every year, we have had a lot of great activities in September and early October. It all started with the Skajuna Picnic. Although we didn't round up too many new members for the guide program, the princess and maidens did pick up some new members. Everyone that attended enjoyed the food and the moon walk.

Next we had the Bike Rally. Although it started off a bit rough for Golden Fox and me, we managed to have a good ride with all. Silver Fox joined us for lunch and showed us some new trails seldom ridden by others.

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Upcoming Events

Fall Fun Night ~ Livonia Y

Saturday, October 18

7—10pm



Bottle / Can Drive

Sat, November 1



Fundraising monies DUE

Saturday, November 15



Thanksgiving Parade

Saturday, November 22



In this issue:

- Bottle/Can drive Flyer
- The Six Aims
- Reports, reports, and more reports :)

Check us out on the web!

lyig.tripod.com

Federation Chief Report — Continued

Thanks to Todd and James of the Buffalo Nation for putting on another great bike rally and arranging for the sun gods to shine on us all day.

Our next event was the Fall Campout. After the long drive through busy traffic and rain we found the camp and were pleasantly surprised to find pumpkins, warm drinks and many friends we hadn't seen for many moons. The Sachem demonstrated his expert skills in burger and dog preparation, not only on Friday but also on Sunday for lunch. The weekend turned out great, despite being shot with the mellow guns no less than 1000 times. This old chief even made it up the ropes and onto the high swing. Rob of the Lance Nation had every detail planned and covered. A job well done! This is a campout to remember.

Our next event will be the Fall Fun Night on October 18th that is being sponsored by the Canoe Nation. See you all there.

If you need more pizza coupons, please contact Tim. Please do not miss the information on the fall fundraiser and the new Adventure Guides program in the Assistant Federation Chief's report. With your support, the transition to the new program next year will be a smooth one.

Pals Forever,

Silver Fox, Golden Fox, and Gray Wolf





Assistant Federation Chief Report

What a great time we had at the Bike Rally on September 27th. It was a beautiful day despite the early threat of rain. Congratulations to Laken on winning the drawing for the new bicycle! Special "Thanks" to Todd and James of the Buffalo Nation for coordinating this event. This was followed by another good time at the Fall Campout at Camp Manitou-Lin on October 3-5. (Okay, who DIDN'T get shot with a marshmallow?). Another special "Thanks" to Rob and the Lance Nation for coordinating the event.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE: If you haven't received your Domino's pizza coupons for this year's fundraiser, please contact me to arrange pick-up. If you find that you are selling more than the minimum of 5, let me know and we can get you more. The Bottle/Can Drive will be held on Saturday November 1. The process will be as follows:

- Circulate flyers to targeted houses 3-5 days before Saturday November 1. (contact me for a copy)
- Collect bottles/cans on Saturday November 1.
- Redeem all bottles/cans for cash.
- Turn in cash or check made payable to "Livonia YMCA Indian Guides" (check preferred) to Tim.

As a reminder, all fundraising monies, including unsold pizza coupons, are due by November 15. You can mail checks to me if you like.

ADVENTURE GUIDES TRANSITION UPDATE: When we transition to the Adventure Guides program beginning with the 2004/2005 year, we will not need to discard our vests. The transition process is just that...a transition and a new beginning of a newly named program with the same, continued focus on father/son relationships. We will celebrate and honor old traditions (i.e., vests) as we change over to new traditions. However, one immediate change you will notice are the names and references to tribes and officers you have grown accustomed to. Some examples are as follows:

Indian Guides reference to....

Nations
Tribe
Chief
Assistant Chief
Wampum Bearer
Tally Keeper
Medicine Man

...becomes Adventure Guides...

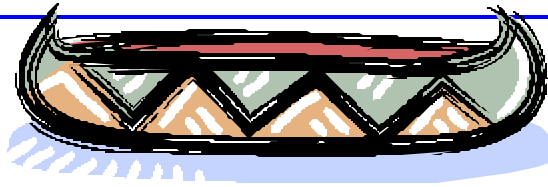
Expedition
Circle
Navigator
Compass Bearer
Treasure Keeper
Log Keeper
Naturalist

More information on our transition will be provided in future issues of Smoke Signals.

Don't forget about the upcoming Federation events...the Bottle/Can Drive on November 1, Thanksgiving Parade on 11/22, and the Winter Fun Night on 12/13. Have a Happy Halloween!

PALS Forever,

Howling Wolf, Swimming Fish, and Running Tiger



Canoe Nation Report of the Hunting Moon

Nodin (Wind) brings many leaves to the ground and the Anekus (Squirrel) is burying his food throughout our fields behind our teepees in the hope it will be found during a short winter. The Livonia Federation charges into the last Falling Leaf Moon of the Indian Guide program scattering all those fallen leaves in a tornado of fun.

The Buffalo Nation Chief brought us the great fun of speeding through the trees on our two-wheeled steeds along trails that were never traveled by some of our younger braves. Negotiating curves and letting our ponies run full speed on some of those downward slopes got the adrenaline flowing in many a brave. Some Guides were not too shy about stating "Dad, we are going to have to do this again after lunch!"

The Lance Nation Chief did a great job of making available the vast resources of Camp Manitou-Lin for our federation's enjoyment. No one who was there will ever forget the mushroom cloud that enveloped the camp on Saturday, October 4th. No, we did not have a nuclear demonstration but the boys crafted many a marshmallow launcher and put their potential to maximum use. There will be many an Anekus (Squirrel) climbing to extraordinary heights and burying sugary treasures at Camp Manitou-Lin for weeks to come. Simon, the furry, golden dog, had his four feet doing many a dance step in synch with some sugar induced tail rhythms. Marshmallows can help create stories when combined with a campfire and song.

The following short tale demonstrates the caliber of the people who join this program, though, to them it is just all in a day's activity, it makes a huge difference in a young person's day. Talking Rock and I returned to the Council Fire late Saturday night, Talking Rock with his heart set on roasting a marshmallow. As we walked down the trail the glow of the fire guided us (because Running Deer forgot to bring the flash lights to camp) and we could hear voices in the circle. When we arrived most of the Mohawk tribe was there and the Medicine Man, but it was obvious that we were late and our leaders were making sure everything was safely extinguished. As the first bucket of water hit the burning embers I felt Talking Rock bury his face in my leg and moisten my clothing as the tears started to flow. One of the Mohawks heard the mournful whimpers and asked what was wrong. I explained he was looking forward to roasting a marshmallow. Immediately a shout of "Hold the Water!" sounded through the council ring, some white, puffy balls of sugar appeared out of the darkness, a long twig materialized and the end was carved into a point, and Talking Rock was in marshmallow heaven roasting his sweets over the perfect coals. His campout was now perfect. He even got to be a torch bearer back to the lodge. There is always a silver lining in dad forgetting the flash light.

Sunday morning we were reminded in the Devotion Service to the Great Spirit about shoes versus toys, needs versus wants, taking what we need versus storing up excess. The Great Spirit provided us with crystal clear weather in the soaring architecture of the outdoor chapel raising our spirits in song, to which Simon wagged his tail in a sugar induced rhythm. On our way back to the real world we stopped at Bowen Mills for apple cider, donuts, wagon ride, and mountain man demonstration of how to rob the trading post unsuccessfully.

By the time most federation guides have a chance to read this, the October 18th Fun Night will be in the history book of FUN because those who attended will know that that is what it was all about.

Pals Forever,

Respectfully submitted
Running Deer
Straight Arrow
Talking Rock



Hello all Big and Little Braves...

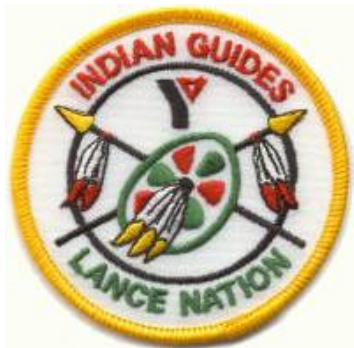
What a wonderful time we had at Camp Manitou-Lin. Visions of marshmallows dancing in my head. (Oops-wrong season). Do you think the critters and Simon enjoyed the leftovers on the ground? Our family enjoyed making and using the marshmallow guns. Its amazing how accurate they can be at a distance or at close range (sorry Little Mike).

Well the camp fire turned out to be very bright and LOUD. No fire trucks though. Some of our leaders did prove that the following Old Indian legend is not just a legend after all: "He who wears feathers near the fire should not get too close."

I hope everyone had a great time at the fun night. Any night spent having fun with our kids is great. We hope to see everyone at the Holiday Parade.

Pals Forever

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



Lance Nation Speaks

Our fall camp at Manitou-Lin was a huge success. The great weather spirit has once again provided us with a dry weekend. Looked like all the braves enjoyed the air powered fluff launchers and Simon cleaned up the camp grounds nicely.

Congratulations to the Cayuga for being the first team to successfully complete the survivor challenge, and to Black Bat and the others (I didn't get their names) who won the pumpkin contest. Now that our hearing has been restored from the explosive campfire and my first experience wearing feathers near fire has been extinguished, we are getting ready for the next coolest Lance Nation event.

We have begun the planning for our Pine Car Derby event. As you know the location will be different than years past, and we will have confirmation of date and location very soon. In the meantime, we get to enjoy the many events others plan, so we can't wait for the fun nights, skating, bowling, winter camp and so forth.

The mighty Crow, Mohawk and Teton are all proud to be Lance Nation tribes.

You're Pals,

Big Chow and Tickle Tiger
Lance Nation Chief



Medicine Man's Report

HOWWWLLL! What a great campout organized by the Lance Nation. Or should I say what a great blast. Between dodging the flying marshmallows and absorbing loud blasts, it was a pleasure to see all the familiar faces and observe the development of our sons. The Federation has great members and I am proud to be a part of it. We have many new leaders that will bring new and exciting activities to each event. Come to the events to experience this first hand instead of reading or hearing about them.

I would like to announce our new members that were inducted:

- Ted and Joey along with returning son Ted
- Allen and Ryan

Please welcome these members of the Creek Tribe at the next event.

We do have other new members that will be assigned to tribes in the coming weeks. New blood for the Spring Campout! Most of our members come by word of mouth. Spread the word, earn the coveted Pathfinder Feather!



Please feel free to invite potential members to the next event as a guest so they can see first hand what the Indian Guides are all about.

The Council has decided to use less blast powder for the Spring Campout, instead of adding ear protection to the list of things to bring to camp. Now getting the fire to light, that is another story....

Pals Forever

Blue Horse, Fire Horse, and Water Horse
Medicine Man

From the Crow's Nest

The mighty Crow enjoyed our first tribe meeting held at the Redford Township police department for a personal demonstration by a member of their S.W.A.T. team and the K-9 unit. We followed our Aztec host "Powhatan" through the halls of headquarters to the basement where a high tech computer controlled, only seen on television, target range appeared. We were greeted by a highly trained officer that let us check out several available artillery to the department. He then provided hearing protection, turned on the vacuum fans that seal the door shut and showed us what a rifle is capable of by shooting two rounds with every pull of the trigger. In the first of many surprises this evening, he flicked a switch on the rifle and held the trigger to unload dozens of bullets in a couple seconds! We just witnessed a fully automatic riffle in its glory and were all amazed by how accurate this officer was, every one of the holes in the "bad guy about to shoot you" target were within six inches apart, all in the chest area.

Thinking we had completed this stage of the tour, our second real "shocking" surprise was when he asked us to leave on the ear protection, we walked through the underground parking structure to the ramp. The officer told us about some kind of "flash/bang" grenade type of devise used to shock the bad guy held up in a house just prior to the officers entering. As he tossed the metal can on the ramp, I held Tickle Tigers headphones and was amazed at the amount of concussion we felt as the devise unleashed an explosion that left a 6 foot burn mark on the cement. We enthusiastically celebrated the demonstration and couldn't help but compare what just happened to the last campfire we had.

Then we were turned over to another officer and his partner Bear from the K-9 unit. We couldn't get over how well behaved Bear was. The officer would be explaining something to us, he would say a command mid-sentence and Bear would react instantly to his partner. We learned some history of police dogs and the enormous amount of continuous training they go through. Then the officer put on a "toy" for Bear, a steel reinforced arm cover that on command, Bear attacks with all his might. Believe me, you don't want Bear attacking you. Then Bear was asked to find drugs in one of the cruisers, he checked out a few and went nuts on one bumper, we all knew he found something. The officer pulls out the bad drugs from the trunk and all the braves inspected it and were told of the differences of good drugs to bad drugs. The final surprise was how to remove the smell from a skunk spray on Bear. You will just have to ask one of the Crow to find out the answer!



A great big thanks goes to the Redford Township Police Department and especially to Powhatan for the invitation and the officers that did the demonstrations.

Your pals,

Big Chow and Tickle Tiger
Crow Scouts

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