

Livonia Family YMCA

Indian Guides

Smoke Signals



September 2003

Volume 35 Issue 1

2003-2004 Program Year

It is the first Sunday after the full moon and it's getting late. As I finish my first Smoke Signal of the year, the Maiden of my (her) teepee informs me that registration forms needing to be turned in should be blank on the flip side so that important information is not lost. So, with this newfound knowledge, I am instructing all big braves to make copies of the forms before turning in and remember, you should always listen to your maiden's wisdom.

If you give a kid a camera...

If you give a kid a camera,
He will want to take a picture.
When the pictures are all taken,
He will want to have them developed.
When the pictures are developed,
He will want to sit and look at them.
While you both sit and share the pictures,
Conversation will begin.
Once he starts talking about the pictures,
You will remember the events in a new way.
Once he shares the pictures with you,
He will want to put them in an album.
As he uses Mom's scrapbook supplies,
She will get to share the memories.
As he journals his stories about the photos,
His memories will be saved forever.

Lets pack disposable cameras for the young braves to use on the Bike Rally and Fall Campout. Making a small memory book or a poster to hang at the YMCA will be a good tribal activity and the camping fun will last longer than just 2 days - and the marketing from a child's point of view could be tremendous for the Guides program!

If anyone is interested in receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please let me know by sending me a request at chrisandlinda@peoplepc.com. I will also be placing this newsletter on our website. Send me a note if you would like to know when it is ready.

Your Tally Keepers,

Screaming Eagle, Mighty Cheetah, Gliding Eagle,
Running Cheetah

Upcoming Events

Bike Rally ~ Maybury State Park

Saturday, Sept. 27

10:30am-3:30pm



Fall Campout ~ Camp Manitou-Lin

Fri-Sun, October 3-5

6pm check-in



Fall Fun Night ~ Livonia Y

Saturday, October 18

7-10pm



In this issue:

- Program Enrollment Form
- Manitou-Lin Campout Registration Form
- Bike Rally Registration Form
- Feather Patch Awards
- 2003-2004 Calendar
- Attendance Sheet
- Map to Camp Manitou-Lin

Federation Chief Report



Greetings Guides, I hope your summer was enjoyable. Now that school is back in session, the 2003-2004 program is about to start. As your new Federation Chief, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. The kids and I are here to serve you and help make this another successful year. As you know, this will be our last year as Indian Guides so we want to make the most of it. Next year we will be transitioning in to the new Adventure Guide program. As the year goes on and we learn more about the program we will pass that information on to you.

You may have noticed that our membership has been dropping the last couple of years. As we would like to bring it back up to historic levels, we would like as many Guides as possible to participate in the recruiting efforts. We have two main recruiting activities planned. First, we had the Skajuna Family Picnic on September 13th, noon - 3pm. This was also open house at the Y. There were a number of people looking at the Y program materials and asking questions about the Guide Program. Second, we would like to have a few volunteers pass out program flyers at the various elementary school Open Houses. Please contact Rick Dunn to let him know what school and when you would be willing to help out. Your help to expand our membership is greatly appreciated and will help ensure the program transition is an easy one.

As you may have guessed, we have a number of events planned for this fall. The first big event will be the fall Bike Rally on September 27th. This will be at Maybury State Park (rain or shine) and is being organized by the Buffalo Nation. This has always been a favorite event for my boys and lunch will be provided.

Next we have the New Member Orientation on September 20th (at 5:00 pm in the Y meeting room) that is being organized by the Medicine Man. This is an opportunity for new members to ask questions and learn more about the Indian Guide Program.

Then the Lance Nation is preparing the fall campout, October 3rd - 5th, at Camp Manitou-Lin in Middleville, Michigan for us. This promises to be a great event complete with ropes courses and horseback riding. Please sign up early to make sure you are bunking with your tribe members.

October 18th is our first Fun Night at the Y. Don't forget your swimming suits and equipment for tennis or racket ball.

Finally, please be sure to read the Assistant Federation Chief's Report to find out about this year's Fundraiser. We have lowered the minimum commitment to \$75 with the hope that everyone will contribute. These funds are used to help offset the costs of Federation Events.

Pals Forever,
Your Federation Chiefs
Silver Fox, Golden Fox, and Gray Wolf



Assistant Federation Chief Report

Hello to all Braves Big and Small! Welcome to this year's YMCA Indian Guides program. Hopefully everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. The kids and I are really looking forward to being your Assistant Federation Chief. This year's officers are already busy making sure all of the planned events are as successful as they always are!

FUNDRAISER -As a reminder, it is suggested that each family commit to a minimum of a \$75 dollar cash donation or fundraising dollars. The primary fund raising program this year will be Domino's pizza coupons. These are full-color, glossy, tri-fold coupons that say "Domino's Community Fund Raising Coupons" on the front. The cost of the coupons will be \$15, with 100% going to the guides. (The coupons are clearly printed with the price and "100% of Proceeds Benefit Livonia YMCA Indian Guides Program" on the front). This is a great deal because the coupon book has 25 coupons, one of which is for 1 free large pizza, so customers will get most of their money back with that one coupon. The rest of the coupons are buy 1 get 1 free (large and medium), 1/2 off a pick-up order, free Breadstix with order, and free Cinna Stix with order. (These things sell themselves as I've already sold a number of them!). Special thanks to Domino's pizza for their participation. We will also be doing a bottle/can drive on Saturday November 1. A flyer will be available in advance so that you can distribute to houses a week or so before. More info on the can drive will be in the October issue of Smoke Signals. For those of you more comfortable with selling candy, this will be an optional, "self-order" alternative for anyone that is interested. Remember, all individual fund raising monies acquired through pizza coupons, bottle/can drive, or candy sales will go against your \$75 minimum per family donation. Of course, we are always open to corporate sponsorships, too! Feather award patches will be given based on fundraising amounts (\$75-Hunter, \$105 Great Hunter, \$125-Mighty Hunter). We are also planning prizes again for top fundraising braves. Pizza coupons will be available at all upcoming events, or by contacting me at timbumpus@peoplepc.com or phone 248-473-2595. NOTE: All fundraising monies (pizza coupons, bottle/can drive, candy, donation) are due to me by November 15, 2003.

As most of you already know, this will be the last year that we will be known as the Indian Guides. Next year we will begin our transition to the new Adventure Guides program. We will use future issues of Smoke Signals to update everyone on this new program.

Finally, don't forget all of the upcoming events that are just around the corner...Bike Rally on September 27, Fall Campout at Manitou-Lin on October 3-5 (see registration form in this newsletter), and the Fall Fun Night on October 18. All of the officers would also like to continue to emphasize that no brave should have to miss a campout due to financial reasons. If you need help, let us know.

Pals forever!

Howling Wolf, Running Tiger, and Swimming Fish



Canoe Nation Report of the Hunting Moon

The Hunting Moon heralds the start of the new year of Father and Son fun and the last season of the Indian theme for the Livonia Y Parent/Child programs. Let's make this year one that all Indian Guides will remember for the fun and quality time we will have with our sons.

What a Spring Campout at Mystic Lake, the camp where the Indian theme in the cabin names conjures up visions of great golf courses: Eagle Glen, Deer Run, Fox Glen, Wolf's Lair, Bird's Blind... What a treasure of memories mixed with a twinge of sadness as we also said farewell to some great friends. We bade farewell to the proud Tomahawk Nation with the burning of the Tomahawk by two families who have served the nation and federation with many hours of dedication to bring about the fun and quality time that Indian Guides is all about. We thank the Collins and Snow families for all they have done for us. Also on their last campout was another family that has given us selfless and inspiring leadership on the nation and federation levels: the Gruskas. Thank You! We will miss you all!

Some of the memories we have of this campout are the "sure fire" ceremonial fire that brought out some guests with a red four wheel drive pick-up that the camp staff invited to counsel us on a sure way of putting the fire out. How about that bog and its contrasts: pockets of air under the floating mat but no oxygen in that air. The bog is teeming with life above but no life can sustain itself in the acidic water. Ingenuity in the face of too many natural resources as demonstrated by Pat's use of scotch tape borrowed from the office to tape three broom handles together to extend his long, talented arm to skillfully disengage his fishing line from a tree which his talented side had nothing to do with getting up there. Why was Talking Rock's horse, Sarah, so gentle as a lead line "pony"? 21 years of experience with being a horse! Did this gentle ride have anything to do with Talking Rock mentioning to dad, after two cups of hot cocoa during the tale of Bruno the bog monster, "Dad, I feel bad. I think I have to throw up." After accomplishing that task in a "rest" room, we had to return to hear the end of the legend of Bruno and watch the movie. Just another thing to do in the activities available on a campout weekend.

We look forward to a great year with a group that is proud to promote the phrase "Father and Son". We look forward to expanding our ranks in the fall recruiting season. Share some of those campout memories with your friends and tell them about the quality time that you get with your sons so we can share these with more people and help build the core of our strong neighborhoods: Strong families. We need this time, our neighborhoods and community benefit from the lessons learned in this quality time, and we have FUN doing it.

Pals Forever

Respectfully submitted

Running Deer

Straight Arrow

Talking Rock

Hello all Big and Little Braves...

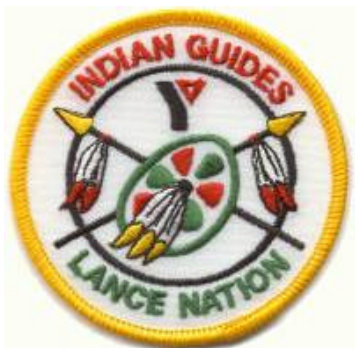
The summer has gone by fast. It's time for Indian Guides to start again. This is always a great time of year. It is fun to see everyone that you haven't seen over the summer. The extended summer weather doesn't hurt either. I know this is going to be a great year under the direction of our Chief, Brian, and his Assistant Chief, Tim. They are already working well together to keep the Indian Guides a proud tradition. (We have passed on the secrets of the fire lighting ceremony...keep it burning brightly gentlemen.)

Little Brown Grizzly, Little Running Bear and I can't wait to start cooking up a storm at the camp-outs. We are planning to cook some of the best meals at the camps. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at Camp Manitou-lin for the Fall Campout Oct. 3 thru the 5. Come hungry on Friday night!

Pals Forever

Your Sachems

Big Brown Grizzly, Little Brown Grizzly and Little Running Bear



Lance Nation Speaks

Welcome back to all returning families, we are looking forward to another fun-filled year of activities. Please tell a friend about our program and invite them to the Bike Rally September 27th.

Our fall camp is coming up quickly; it will be at Camp Manitou-Lin which is south of Grand Rapids north of Kalamazoo on October 3rd to 5th. The deadline to register at the Y is September 26th, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible. You're going to love Manitou-Lin's indoor climbing ropes and rock wall. Who's going to be the first one to swing 20 feet above the ground? We are planning an exciting new challenge that hopefully will require physical and mental skills, and most importantly, teamwork to succeed! This camp is a little tricky to find so take along a good map and drive carefully.

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





Medicine Man's Report

To begin our new year, my Sons and I would like to welcome our returning members and thank everyone in advance for supporting the program. We have a great group of Fathers and Sons and I look forward to this year's events. If you are a new member and did not participate in the Skajuna or New Member Orientation, please contact me if you have any questions. The Medicine Man coordinates new members in addition to providing spiritual guidance and participating in the Induction Ceremony. We did re-organize as participation has fallen off over the last several years. The Tomahawk Nation has been retired this year and tribes moved into the remaining Canoe, Buffalo, and Lance Nations. This does put more burden on Nation Chiefs to organize events. Please help them if you are called upon or contact them to volunteer.

New members are welcomed any time during the year. Most of us were recruited by friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, or through YMCA events. I challenge every member to talk to others about the program and recruit at least one new member during their tenure. Invite them to one of the next events as a guest (fees can be waived by event organizer) and they can see first hand. For bringing in a new member, you will receive the "Pathfinder" feather. This green feather is a nice addition to your vest. Look around at the next event to see how many of these you can find. There are many ways to get feathers other than fund raising and bringing in a new member is a very easy.

Yours truly,

Blue Horse, Fire Horse, and Water Horse
Medicine Man

