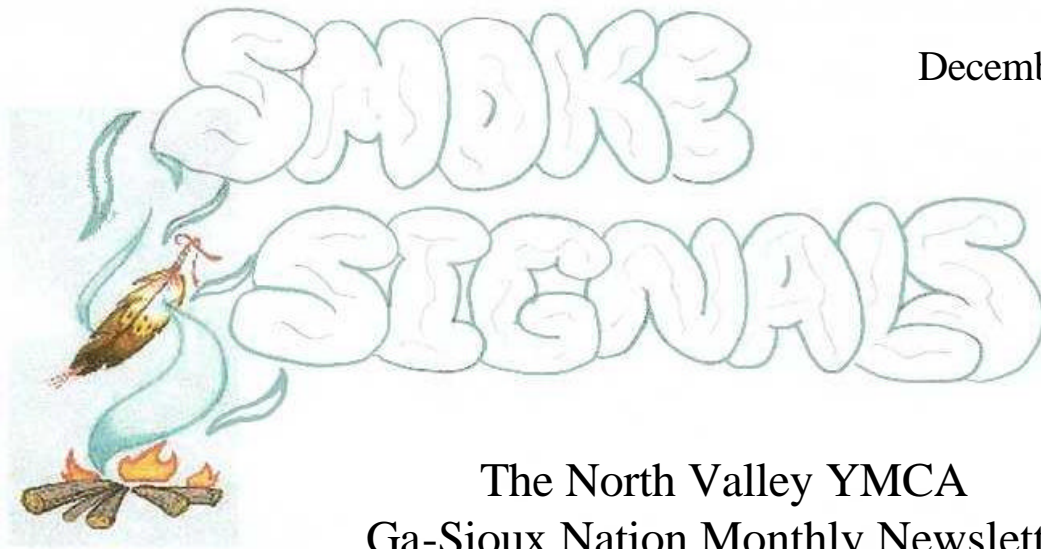


December 2002



The North Valley YMCA Ga-Sioux Nation Monthly Newsletter

Hello Guides and Princesses,

I can't believe that it is already Christmas! This year is flying by. We had a record turnout at the Pilgrim Feast. Over 200 people came, but only about 1/2 of those people had reserved ahead of time. Fortunately, we had ordered food for about 200 so instead of having quite a bit of food we actually ran out. At the last Longhouse meeting we discussed methods of obtaining a more accurate head count so that an adequate amount of food can be ordered without having too little or too much. If you have any suggestions talk to your tribal chief. It was great seeing so many new Guides and Princesses and the Four Winds ceremony is always a great reminder of the values which make Guides and Princesses such a special and unique program. "Pal Forever". It looked to me like the new members are picking up "Super Lizard" and "Tarzan" pretty quickly. By Camp Whittle campfire should be really loud! Thanks to your generosity at the Pilgrim Feast we completely filled up the back of Josie's truck with food, which was then delivered to a woman's shelter here in the San Fernando Valley.

All of the artists in the Nation displayed their skills on the YMCA floats for the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Again we had a turnout of over 200 Nation members and we were awarded a FIRST PLACE trophy by the parade judges! (Although I confess that I am not exactly sure in what category

the award was in.) Many thanks to the sponsoring tribes, the Apaches and Arapahos. I think that was the best-decorated float, which we have had over the years. Several "troublemakers" made the mistake of spraying Josie with silly string. Since "revenge is a dish best served cold" I would be on the defensive at Camp Whittle! Speaking of Camp Whittle, Big Bear just received 6 inches of snow as I am writing this with more expected this coming weekend. This is turning into a classic El Nino winter and if so we could have outstanding snow for sledding, snowmen and snowball fights. Keep an eye on the weather reports over the next several weeks for road and weather conditions. Carpooling is a lot of fun, especially if several dads have 4-wheel drive, just in case. I have talked to quite a few dads who are leaving early on Friday since most of the kids don't have school. Remember that on Friday night you are on your own for dinner.

At your tribal meetings over the next several months the tribal chiefs will hopefully be talking to each dad about the annual YMCA Current Support Campaign which raises money for many of the YMCA programs, including Guides and Princesses. I will talk more about this in the next Smoke Signal, but in the spirit of the season I wanted to mention it now. It is my hope that each tribe will agree to participate in this worthwhile fundraising drive to

help those less fortunate, but more on that next month.

I also received the good news this month that apparently the situation may be changing with respect to the use of Indian themes and names and we may now be allowed to carry on with these traditions in Guides and Princesses. I will have more on this at future Longhouse meetings and Smoke Signals. It has been my experience that we have always emphasized the admirable traits which Native Americans exhibited in terms of their respect for nature and family. I hope that we are allowed to continue to emphasize the traits to help in teaching these values to our children. To do so, as we have done in the past, it is imperative that we treat the Native American culture with respect and avoid negative images or stereotypes. Once we have more specific information we will pass it along.

Happy Holidays! I hope to see all of you up at Camp Whittle and I hope it is in several feet of snow!

Mike Terhar
Ga-Sioux Nation Chief

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Camp Whittle Big Bear	January 3 – 5
Cosmic Bowling Matador Bowl	February 1 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Camp Fox Catalina	March 14-16
Nation Event	April
Jet Hawks Baseball Lancaster	May 10 7:15 p.m.
Spring Family Campout Sycamore Canyon	June 6-8

TRIBAL NEWS

MOHICAN TRIBE

The Mohican Tribe welcomed two more new members at our last meeting. Jamie and Kylie L. are our latest members bringing our tribe to a total of 25!

A big thanks to John 'Two Strikes' and Heather 'Little Feather' W. for hosting our November meeting at Sherman Oaks Castle Park, an event that has become an annual favorite with our girls!

The Granada Hills Parade was a success and now we look forward to visiting Camp Whittle in January.

A Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year to everyone.

Chief Prowling Bear

CREE TRIBE

The Cree tribe has been quite busy. Our girls all went to a retirement home and handed out flowers, sang songs and generally brightened the day of some of our senior citizens. Song Bird's (Tayla) grandmother is a resident and was thrilled. This is an event that we will definitely be repeating.

We also had 100% attendance by the tribe at the Granada Hills Christmas Parade. Sun Flower (Samantha), Swimming Dolphin (Jamie), Little Eagle Feather (Christina), Floating Feather (Elizabeth) and their other tribal sisters are quite handy at shooting Silly String quite a distance.

The girls also had quite a bit of fun at the Pilgrim Feast and are getting ready for the December monthly meeting hosted by Pocahontas (Cara). We should be finalizing all of our plans for the upcoming Camp Whittle trip.

Chief Shooting Bull

SIOUX NORTH TRIBE

Greetings from Sioux North

I would be remiss if I started our report out without offering the Nation's thanks to Tiny Cloud and White Cloud (Greg and Megan H.) for putting the floats together for the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Thanks also to the rest of White Cloud's family for putting the final touches on the floats, for driving the route, and for cleaning up after the event. The Y-Nation won first prize in the parade so your efforts were recognized by the judges as well as the entire Nation.

We held our November tribal meeting at Chief Broken Wing's house (Art) who kept a roaring fire going and got the tribe fed before performing some initial float decorating (which got washed away in the rain the following week). We took another crack at making the float suitable for the Rose Parade at our next tribal meeting on December 7th at Tiny Cloud's where the tribe furiously worked to put the finishing touches on the award winning holiday on wheels.

The whole tribe marched in the Parade and, well, I'm still trying to get Silly String out of my ears. Bright Star (Amanda) and Beauty Pony (Courtney) were pretty accurate with their endless supply of ammunition. Grey Wolf (Randy) made a good target and by the end of route, he became a Rastafarian wearing Silly String Dreadlocks. Meanwhile, Leah unloaded about 3 cans of goo on father Ron who we have renamed Cheesehead.

Congratulations to Flying Elbow (Chris) who will be spending the Holidays in new digs. We all hope that your new abode brings you and the family a lot of happiness.

We are all paid up for Whittle, the badge is in the loom, and we are getting the supplies together for a great weekend. Big Buck (Sid) has promised to nail a bull's eye this year and Running Rabbit has committed to making a sled run this year where he actually remains on the sled for the whole trip. See you at Whittle.

APACHE TRIBE



Wow! What a month! Since I last wrote, we had our new tribe member initiation at the annual Pilgrim Feast, our tribe (along with the Arapahos) hosted the float decorating for the Granada Hills Holiday Parade, then we marched/rode in the parade, and finally we had our 4th tribal meeting earlier this week! It's been a busy month, but one that was a lot of fun and one that created some more lifetime memories for us dads and braves!

As I mentioned above the Pilgrim Feast was as special as always. Our special thanks go out to Josie, Terry, and the hosting tribes for making it a memorable night for all our boys, but especially for our newest Apaches and dads (Gabe and Zachary, David and Evan, and Greg and Matthew)! I always appreciate the reminder of the values that the '4 Winds' skit brings.

The Granada Hills Parade was a treat any way you figure it (although it may have been a wee bit tough on some dads I know who were at a Christmas party the night before!). The art work put together on the float by our dads and braves far exceeded my expectations – who knew we had such talent! A special thanks goes out to Mary B. who became an honorary Apache for an afternoon – thanks Mary! Also, a special note of thanks to Scott E. for his initial design work for the float and to Joe O. for bringing his stereo (so we could hear the 'Y-M-C-A' song over and over and over as we marched!). I would be remiss if I didn't send out a special thanks from the Apaches and Arapahos to Greg (sorry I don't know your last name!) and his support from Fox Studios and our great volunteer drivers who towed our floats during the parade.

Getting us ready for the final push towards the holidays, we had our 4th meeting the other night graciously hosted by Mike and Kyle T. During the meeting we were able to make some excellent snow globes (thanks to Mike's squaw for the idea!) and had an excellent reading of 'The Polar Express' – helping us to remember to keep the faith of the holiday season and that it will only remain special to those who believe!

Next on the agenda is Camp Whittle and the Apaches are definitely excited and will be well represented. We're looking forward to some blustery fun and some good dad/brave quality time up in the mountains. Hope to see you all there!

'til next month,

Hugging Bear



ARAPAHO TRIBE

The Arapahos had a great time at the Pilgrims Feast. We inducted our newest members--- Jayson & Gary, Jason & Jeff, and Connor & Robert. The food was excellent (as always), and the campfire was a memorable one.

It made us proud to sponsor The Granada Hills Holiday Parade. To all the tribes--- Thanks for all your help in making our float the most outstanding creative float I have ever seen. The Arapaho tribe came through with another outstanding turnout and the children will never forget the silly string sprayed all over the parade route. Fun was had by all. We look forward to Camp Whittle. Let it snow, let it snow...let it snow.

Chief Art

SHAWNEE TRIBE

Holiday greetings to the mighty Shawnee and other tribes of the Ga-Sioux Nation.

It has been busy! In the last month or so we had:

November's tribal meeting at Vasquez Rocks arranged by former chief Ed "Claw of Grizzly" R. and his daughters, Little Hummingbird and Shooting Star. Park Ranger Mrs. Reynosa joined us for lunch and, afterwards, took us on a nature hike. We learned much about the Tataviam Indians, Santa Clarita's early residents. The Tataviam's lived off the abundance of the land, traded with, among others, the coastal Chumash tribe and the Piute from what is now Mono County (for obsidian to make tools and arrows). The Tataviam's spoke an Aztec dialogue which confirms that they traveled widely. In the words of my daughter, Running Deer, this day, which included a delicious meal, a craft and hikes to the tops of may mountains, was "mega-awesome," "spectacular," "amazing" and "splendid." It's safe, I think, to say those who attended agree as do I. Thanks, Claw, Bird and Star. Other tribes should consider this destination for a future meeting.

November's Pilgrim Feast was enjoyable with good weather, good food and a ceremony well done. The Shawnee welcome those inducted.

December's tribal meeting was at Running Deer's and my teepee. With the entire tribe (and Little Bear's brother) in attendance, we ate, played, talked, "pow wowed" about the Indian heritage of the Y program, learned why Rachel Z's new name is "Rearing Horse," made a craft and planned for upcoming events. The craft was, in part, made possible by the use of Gray Wolf's (Al M.'s) Polaroid camera. Thanks, Gray Wolf and all other Shawnee for a wonderful evening.

Last but not least was the parade for which the weather couldn't have been better. Though I understand there was music, we never heard it. Maybe speakers should be on both floats. Special thanks to the float designers; hopefully, no native Hawaiians were offended by the theme.

A closing thought: the last Smoke Signals makes it clear that most of the tribes continue to emphasize Indian heritage in their crafts, story telling and other ways (making talking sticks and wampum pouches). Joe Friday, the Ojibway who, with Harold Keltner, started the Indian Guides 77 years ago, would no doubt be pleased.

Looking forward to Camp Whittle and wishing happy holidays to all.

Chief Falling Rock

FLOWER WOLVES TRIBE

The Flower Wolves had two of its members move on to other hunting grounds. However, it looks like two new families are going to join our tribe in the next few weeks. The Pilgrim Feast was a blast! The girls sure acted like wolves devouring all that great food from Rosie's. I think Angel Pedals, Cutie Deer, Angel Fish and Cuttle Fish had more sauce on them than anyone else. Too bad a prize is not given for messiest face. The Parade was our first as a tribe. Chief Whitefish and Laughing Bear carried our banner proudly for the entire time. Who would have thought that so much silly string could be squirted out in just the first few blocks of the route? Next year we may have to buy 2 cases! It must have taken one week for Princess Blue Eyes and Tiger Lily to get all that silly string washed out of their hair. The girls also got messy at the home of Big Eagle and Floating Dove. They planted magic herbs (Basil) in their hand-painted flower pots. Cuttle Bunny, Purple Rose, and Little Heart had more fun playing with the hamster than doing the organized event, but I don't think he minded all the attention. Next up is Camp Whittle, and hope our tribes howling won't keep the rest of you awake.

Chief White Fish

SEMINOLE TRIBE

Happy Holidays to All!

I hope everyone has not been so crazy during this busy time and that everyone has had the chance to get into the spirit of the season.

The Seminoles had a fantastic time at the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Although the turnout from our tribe was lower than normal, it seemed the Y-Guides of the North Valley had the biggest presence of any group. The Parade seems to be getting bigger each year and the custom floats really add a lot. Tribe members attending from the Seminoles this time included Swimming Wolf (Andreas), Jumping Wolf (Stefan), Snow Wolf (Bobby), Nicholas (Running Fox) and Little Bear with Lion Voice (Cole). The fathers also had a great time and spent much of the time uncovering themselves from the loads of silly string that came upon us.

The latest weather reports call for some rainstorms coming through in the next week and we are all hoping for the white stuff up in the mountains. With Camp Whittle just three weeks away, it would be great to have some snow for all to play in. The Seminoles are expecting a big turnout so watch out for us in the Nation Games and at the Campfire!

The tribe has spoken!

Screaming Wolf (Gene G.)
Chief, Seminoles 2002-2003

CHUMASH TRIBE

Thank you-s go to the Blackfeet and my fellow Chumash Tribe members for hosting a filling Pilgrim Feast. The Parade was great. The Chumash all had lots of fun spraying the Silly String all around, especially at the Dads. The Dads of the Tribe made sure they did not miss out on the fun either, especially when they were spraying the Dads from the Mohave Tribe. The Y-Float was very decorative this year. Thank you to all who spent time painting on the decorates and to the donors

of the built-up float. We can't wait to bring the Parade Trophy to our next meeting.

Last month we held our tribal meeting at Red Bear and Little Bear's home (Doug & Laurel). We needed the help of all, to figure out how to start a lanyard. Our next meeting will be at Just-The-Chief and Pretty Rainbow's home (Ronald & Marni). We have a great craft project planned. We also will be in a "closed-stage" rehearsal in preparation of our song for Camp Whittle! We have a legacy to uphold and the MIGHTY CHUMASH plan to live up to it!!!

See Everyone Up At Camp Whittle,
Just-The-Chief
Ronald K.

BLACKFEET TRIBE

The Blackfeet once again co - hosted the Pilgrim Feast with The Chumash Tribe.

As usual, we all enjoyed the great fare organized by The Chumash, thank you guys for another great job.

Jim 'White Lightning' Jenkins used his creative talents to come up with an absolute gem of a Pilgrim Feast patch, thanks again Jim! The boys all enjoyed the campfire activities not to mention playing with the glow sticks.

Oliver and I missed the Granada Hills Parade but judging from the photo's that I have seen everyone had a great time. A special thanks to Scott and Kyle Stanley for their hospitality for the post parade gathering at their house!

Camp Whittle is just around the corner and we are all looking forward to attending.

Until then, I would like to wish the whole nation a very happy holiday season.

Prowling Bear

MOHAVE TRIBE

The Mohave Tribe met at the Soaring Eagle and Gray Eagle's house (with Shawnees Bright Eagle and Shimmering Eagle watching the meeting from the kitchen) and worked further on their Lancer airplanes. As thoughts turned to the Holiday Parade, ambitious plans were made to corner the market on Silly String, and several pallets of the stuff were arranged for. Finally, thoughts, and Guides, turned to many and varied cookies, the most popular being those made by Tired Eagle (Suzie) for the occasion.

The Mohave had their traditional pre-parade lunch meeting, at which all were appropriately armed with Silly String. Then it was off to meet the parade floats, as dads spent the better part of an hour repeatedly asking their sons not to shoot Silly String before the parade started. During the parade, much fun was had by all, lots of Silly String was shot from the float, and dads took turns proudly bearing the Mohave banner, as they stepped over, around, and occasionally in, the parade's equine residue.

The Mohave are preparing to repeat last year's awesome attendance at Camp Whittle, where we will strive to have as much fun as we had last year - it would be difficult to have more, but we will try that too!

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Thanks!

Tom

Mohave Smoke Signal reporter

NORTH VALLEY FAMILY YMCA GUIDES & PRINCESSES

CAMP WHITTLE JANUARY 3 - 5

**COST: \$69 per person
PCS: 806-10**

INCLUDES: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on Saturday, Breakfast on Sunday.

DEADLINE: Money due at the YMCA by Friday, December 27.

Bring your cold weather gear and snow toys, games and snacks (optional).

Note: If you have children in different tribes, please let us know so that we may make the most convenient cabin assignments possible.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available for those arriving on Friday night in the dining hall.

For road information, call 909-866-ROAD.

Remember to bring warm clothes, car chains are advisable.

For more information contact your tribal chief or Josie at the YMCA at 818-368-3231 or by e-mail at josierea@ymcala.org.



W I N T E R C A M P

WHAT TO BRING.....

Gather up your snow boots and parkas and get ready for the snow (or at least a lot of cold). Camp Whittle is coming up soon. The time is now to get packed and ready for some fun. The weekend begins as early as noon Friday, the first meal served is breakfast on Saturday.

There is a map attached which shows the route to the camp through the High Desert which is faster when there is heavy traffic, such as Friday evening.

Cabin assignments will be posted in the dining hall for Indian Guides/Princesses and in Wagner Lodge for the Trailblazers. The schedule of events will also be available.

Some of the suggested items to bring are:

Warm Clothes

- boots
- warm socks (extra)
- gloves
- hat or cap
- long johns
- jacket

Pillow

Sleeping bag

Towels (wash clothes and soap)

Flashlight-per person

Books

Snack (fruits, cookies, drinks, etc.)

Tire chains (if you drive)

Skits for the campfire

Indian vests and headbands(YIP/YIG only)

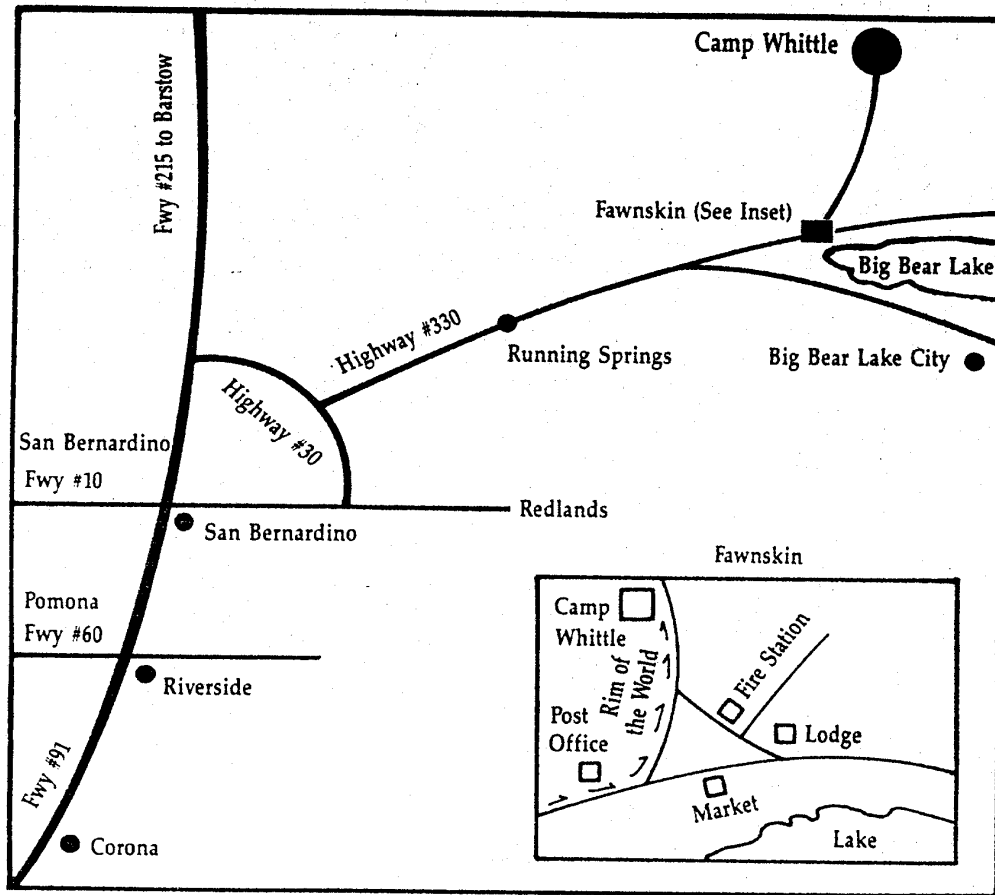
Snow toys (inner tubes, sleds, discs)

Indoor games

Security blanket, stuffed animals, scotch guard, etc.

Everyone is asked to carpool as much as possible due to lack of parking space in the camp, especially if there is a lot of snow. Driving up together can make the drive much more of an event for the children.





CAMP HAROLD F. WHITTLE:

Located approximately 120 miles from Los Angeles, allow 3 hours of driving time.

Use the best freeway heading east out of the Los Angeles area to the San Bernardino area. About 5 miles from the #10 and #215 Freeway Interchange will be the Highway #30, Mountain Resort, exit. Follow the signs to the Highway #330 exit to Big Bear Lake.

Continue through Running Springs to the Big Bear Lake Dam. Stay to the left. **DO NOT CROSS THE DAM.** Stay on the North Shore Drive to Fawnskin. Turn left on Rim of the World Drive, 3 miles to Camp Whittle. A short distance from Fawnskin the paved road ends into a well graded dirt road. Follow US Forest Service Road 3N14, Camp Whittle will be on your left.

DRIVE SAFELY – WEAR YOUR SEATBELTS

Guides & Princesses Cosmic Bowling Saturday, Feb. 1

North Valley Family
YMCA at Porter Ranch



Saturday, February 1
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



North Valley Family YMCA at
Porter Ranch

11336 Corbin Ave.
Northridge, CA 91326
818-368-3231

Location:

Matador Bowl

9118 Balboa Blvd, Northridge

Cost:

\$15 per child - PCS: 806-11

\$5.00 per dad - PCS: 806-12

Space is limited. Children's fee includes bowling and a patch. Dads fee includes patch and glow necklace.

Everyone must pre-register by Jan. 27