



Hello Guides & Princesses:

Our last event of the year is coming up – the Family Camp Out at Sycamore Canyon. This will be our second year at this location. Space is limited so sign up right away! We have lots of kids graduating this year to Trailblazers, so be sure to give them a big send off. Of course we will also have the usual nation games, kite flying and the sand sculpture contest. Bring the shovels, the sunscreen and your imagination.

This is my last letter to all of you as Chief. Next year your chief will be Brian Williams and I know that he will do an outstanding job and will bring a lot of enthusiasm and laughter to the position. If you will indulge me for a moment in this last letter I wanted to share a few thoughts. Time slips away so quickly. This was actually my second term as nation chief, the last being 1997-98, and was my 10<sup>th</sup> straight year in this program – I looked at the patches on my vest (which now are filling up the inside of the vest) to try to figure out the year I started. As best I can tell, I started in 1993 with my oldest son, Jeff. I do recall that I was initially “pushed” into the program by my wife, along with a small group of dads who also received the same “encouragement” from their

wives, all of whom initially saw it as a way for the families and kids to stay in contact as they all went their separate ways in different elementary schools. That small group founded the Apache tribe, which is still in existence today.

Although I initially went into the program with some cynicism and reluctance, the program won me over as I met people like Josie (who has been around longer than me), Terry and other Y staff members and as I saw how much fun Jeff was having. I found myself trying activities that I hadn’t participated in for years – bowling, camping, parades, etc. There were numerous shared memories and stories – some shared with the family and others privately shared, keeping in mind the unofficial, secondary slogan of the program, “Have a good time and don’t tell your mother.” Jeff spent his four years in the program as did my middle son Riley, and now my youngest son, Kyle, graduates at the Family Camp after his four years. Jeff, just finishing his freshman year in high school, has now even graduated from Trailblazers and Riley is in his second year of that program.

For those of you graduating, if you enjoyed Guides & Princesses, you will love

Trailblazers, if you enjoy camping, white water rafting etc. The Trailblazer program also has trips to the mountains and Catalina, and bowling in addition to the two signature events – the canoe trip down the Colorado River and white water rafting on the Kern River. It is less structured with more time to make your own memories.

In reflecting back over the past 10 years in both of these programs, I realize what a great gift was given to me by the YMCA. It would have been too easy to let too many weekends slip away – briefcases of work brought home, chores around the house, TV, and the boys' soccer, basketball and baseball games, which begin to blur together at times. The events in the Guides and Trailblazers provided a structure so that these too-short years which we have with our kids doesn't slip away before we know it and all that we are left with are regrets over missed opportunities. When I sit around with my three boys and we share stories about these activities over the past 10 years, old and new, I know that the program has helped foster with my three sons, the idea of "Pals forever, Friends for Life," the real slogan of the program.

I hope that each of you takes away similar fond memories of your experiences with Guides and Princess, that you will help keep the program strong and help it continue to grow (we have almost doubled in size from 10 years ago). It is only as healthy as its membership and you truly get out of the program what you put into it. I wish you continued success in the years to come and a final, special thanks to Josie.

Nation Chief Talking Bull

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## NATION CALENDAR 2003 - 2004

Skate Night	Sept. 25
*Ga-Sioux Nation Picnic	Oct. 19
Pilgrim Feast	Nov. 22
Granada Hills Parade	Dec. 7
Camp Whittle	Jan.
Cosmic Bowling	Feb. 7
Camp Fox	March
Nation Event	April
Sports Event	May
Spring Family Campout	June 4 - 6

\*Event may be held in April instead of October  
All dates are subject to change.

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## TRIBAL NEWS

### CHUMASH TRIBE

The May meeting of the Chumash Tribe was held at the home of Jim & Megan. It was great that the Dads got to watch the Lakers, but not-so-great at ALL that they lost that Game 6 and were out of the playoffs.

We had an interesting craft item to make at the meeting. Once the craft was decorated, we then had to learn the technique of getting it to spin fast. At the meeting we heard from the attendees of the JetHawk game, of the special time that they had. Then we turned our attention to the upcoming Family Campout. For those who will not be able to spend the night, they are making the effort to camp for the day.

The Chumash Tribe is planning on having a June meeting at the home of Steve & Ariela's before we take our Summer Break. Of course we are all looking forward to our Annual Chumash Family Swim Party this summer! We hope to be able to invite and welcome some of our new tribal members that will be joining us in this Fall.

And so I conclude this last article for the 2002-03 Chumash Tribe. I thought that we carried on the great and Mighty Chumash tradition. Even though this was the first year following the graduation of all the original Chumash Princesses, we all can be proud that we had a great time with our Dads and Daughters, as well as with our fellow Nation members.

Thanks to everyone in making this a fabulous and enjoyable year! It was a pleasure being the Chief of the Chumash Tribe this year.

Go Chu-mash!!!

Ronald  
Just-The-Chief

### FLOWER WOLVES TRIBE

This is my last article for the Smoke Signals as the chief of the Flower Wolves. Next year James W. (Big Heart) takes over. It has been a great year, and I am honored to have been the chief of such a wonderful tribe. Our tribal spirit was greater than the outdoors, and everyone worked together to make our monthly meetings successful. For most of the year we had perfect attendance at each of our meetings. The Flower Wolves really had a great time at the Lancaster Jethawks game. Princess Blue Eyes, Pounds on Nails, Floating Dove, and Big Eagle probably spent more money on food than the game tickets cost but they still had a great time. Chief White Fish actually won some gift certificates by throwing a tennis ball into a hula hoop at the end of the game. Who said all those times playing catch with Cuddle Fish and Angel Fish wouldn't pay off?

The following is what Purple Planet had to say about the LA Zoo trip. Just want to share with you the exciting Overnight Zoo Trip that my little princesses, Rebecca (Purple Rose) and Alicia, and I experienced this past weekend. Although I did not know what to expect, I knew that this trip would be safe to get to, as the zoo is just 15 minutes from my house and we did not have to travel on any raging waters or through any snow-filled mountains. What we did experience was one of the most exciting overnight trips helped by enthusiastic

LA Zoo Facilitators who made this trip a memorable one.

Just a few details. Upon arrival the facilitators gave the children a 30 minutes tutorial on how the animals adapt to their environment. This was followed by dinner and a two hour tour of the zoo animals and a behind the scene look of the zoo kitchen and hospital. A mystery game was played during the tour. After the tour the children were treated with an all-you-can-eat snack and an arts-and-craft project of painting animal figures on a free LA Zoo T-shirt. We finally went to bed at 11pm that evening, sleeping with our sleeping bags at the LA Zoo administration building. The next morning we were treated to breakfast and another one hour private tour of the zoo where we observed the animals waking up.

The LA Zoo give these tours every weekend to various organizations, and one needs to book at least a year in advance. I would recommend this trip to anyone who is fortunate enough to get the opportunity. This is one of LA's best-kept secrets on family entertainment. I plan to back again next year.

Our most recent meeting was at the house of Lots of Cubs, and Tigerlilly. We had great fun making medicine wheels, but most of the Dads are still trying to get off the superglue from their fingers. Our last meeting will be at the house of the Fish. Where we will make Smores over an open campfire and sing farewell to the 2003 Y- Princesses season. We will be also planning our "charity event". We will be taking the train down to Tijuana and bring clothes, toys, and the money we raised this year to an orphanage.

Almost the entire tribe will be going to the Spring Camp Out. So once again we hope that we won't keep you up too late with our late night howling at the moon.

Thank you all for a great year. Your always faithful

The "soon to be former Chief" White Fish

## SIOUX NORTH TRIBE

Normally, I would use this article to let you all know what we did at our last meeting, how the tribe fared at the last Nation event, and what was on the horizon. I will apologize in advance because this article is a tribute and it is one that I feel compelled to write.

We join organizations such as the Indian Guides and Princesses program for a variety of reasons. Among them, we hope to spend some "Dad Time" with our sons or daughters where we actually take responsibility for the care, feeding, and entertainment of our kids. With all endeavors, there are unintended benefits and consequences. I am going to focus on one of the benefits.

Neil Hamlin, the father of Greg "Tiny" Hamlin recently passed away. Greg, among other things, has provided the Nation with the Holiday Float over the past couple of years and he has been in the tribe for four years. When Neil was hospitalized, he was moved from hospital to hospital and from ward to ward since the good Doctors decided that they couldn't cure Neil and thus they moved on to other patients. Neil's third move brought him to the Santa Clarita Valley. He was despondent and as the family came out to see him, we received our unexpected benefit. Neil's primary physician just happened to be a member of our tribe. Dr. Ron Schwartz joined us this year. He has a remarkable daughter, Leah. They joined Indian Princesses because Ron wanted to spend quality time with his daughter, knowing that, as a Doctor, he had little free time available.

When I saw Ron, I asked him a favor. I requested that he would do everything in his power to make my father-in-law comfortable, and that he would be treated with dignity. Ron has a number of patients in a number of facilities across the Valley, but he gave me his word that he would look after Neil. I won't go into the details of how a terminal patient can be looked upon as an inconvenience or worse by a hospital administration. As a family, we were up against some difficult times related to Neil's care. Whenever an issue arose, I called Ron and he responded. Ron showed compassion and care that went above and beyond the call of duty. We were able to honor Neil's wishes through Ron's intercession. We gave a great man comfort and peace.

Why does this have anything to do with the Guides and Princesses program? Greg and I would have never met Ron were it not for our collective participation in the program. We benefited from the community that evolves as tribe members get to know one another, learn what they do for a living, and reach out with their unique talents. Dads spend time with their children, but they also meet new people, develop relationships, and make friends with a whole new group of good people. Had we not met Ron, we would have had an uphill fight to protect Neil and we might have lost. We would like to thank Ron and we want to honor Neil through the establishment of a memorial through the North Valley YMCA Indian Guides and Princesses program. This program builds families, small communities, and forms a larger nation of people who want to do the right thing. Watching the support we got from our tribe, signals that chivalry isn't dead, it was just dormant and when people get together in a program such as this, chivalry lives. Thanks to Josie, all the folks at the YMCA, to our tribe, and to Dr. Ron

Schwartz who demonstrated why this program works.

Sorry for the preach.

Chief Broken Wing

APACHE TRIBE

Well, it's Memorial Day weekend and another month has flown by, but not without its share of memories from the program. Late last month a group of boys and dads got together to make special Mother's Day gifts for the moms. I think I speak for my squaw in saying that she was extremely pleased with the thoughtfulness of the effort and will greatly appreciate the 'helping hands' around the house!

As if that wasn't enough to make the month worthwhile, the Apaches joined with a great deal of other nation attendees to enjoy the Lancaster Jethawks game. I must say that I found the game and family environment to be as pleasant as others who had previously attended this event had promised. This event is definitely a keeper and one that I'd now recommend to everyone.

As the year winds down to a close I'm really looking forward to the upcoming Spring Family Campout June 6-8<sup>th</sup> up at Sycamore Canyon. It's a great family event and another one that will stay in your kids' memories for years to come. In addition to the campfire, nation games, sand castle contest, and great food, it marks the last event of the year and the graduation from the Y-Guides portion of the program for all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Please join us for a weekend of fun and to wish all of our braves and dads continued success in all of their future endeavors – perhaps in the Trailblazers program!

Lastly, my special thanks go out to all my dads for the assistance they have provided me this year -- most especially to Scott

Ebbesmeyer (aka Grey Wolf), without whom our tribe would not have been nearly as organized or spirit-filled as it was. I hope the year has given you at least a few more precious moments with your boys than you would have had otherwise and will provide you memories that will last you both a lifetime! These are special years, make the most of them!

Hugging Bear and Little Brave Bear



## MOHICAN TRIBE

Thanks go out to the hosts of our most recent monthly meetings, Jim and Ariel S. in April and Dan, Claire and Hannah P. in May. The Mohican tradition of Pizza and crafts continued at both events. I did see an 'outsider' sneaking photos of our group at the Parker household, hopefully not for public distribution?

The girls have had a great time playing together and working on crafts this season even though it has been rare to have a meeting attended by all of our tribe.

We also spent time voting in our Chief for next season. This is a new ritual for the Mohicans. In years gone by, the honor of being Chief is awarded to a member who does not participate in the last meeting of the year! This year however, we had a different plan!

Never has a man been so deserving of such an honor as being appointed Tribal Chief as Larry 'lots o'bull' T. A man of fine stature in the community, and a true favorite with the kids. In fact, Larry had just returned from a three day field trip with the fifth grade of Castlebay Lane Elementary School. Larry had prided himself on attending this trip to spend time with his eldest daughter Madison, herself a Mohican graduate! This will be Larry's second term in office so we are confident he will do us proud. Thank you Larry.

It is amazing that the 'Y' year is drawing to a close already with only the Spring Family Camp event left as we go to press. It does not seem that long ago when we were planning to attend the Nation Picnic at O'Melveny Park. Many stories have been told since that day with some great fun trips and events enjoyed by all.

There will be three princesses and their dads graduating out of our program this year, we will miss Raleigh 'Climbing Bear' S. and dad John, Katie 'White Dove' A. and dad Jim and Ariel 'Dancing Bird' S. and dad Jim. We will miss you all and hope you come back and visit us sometime.

New members will be welcomed as usual to our tribe and we hope to recruit some new girls and dads during the summer months to come and enjoy the friendship of The Mohicans

This will be my last message for Smoke Signals as Chief of the Mohicans but will contribute as your new Nation Chief!

Have a great summer and see you all in September.

Chief Prowling Bear  
Asst. Nation Chief.

## SHAWNEE TRIBE

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

As the sun sets on the 2002/2003 Princess (and Guides) year, I look forward to what still remains of it which is this month's forthcoming tribal meeting hosted by Sitting Bull and his daughters, Tiger Lilly & Little Bell (Troy, Macey & Kendall K.), next month's tribal meeting which will be hosted by Big Buffalo (next year's Shawnee Chief) & Rearing Horse (Greg & Rachel Z.), the Spring family campout at Sycamore Canyon, putting our photos together for the yearbook, the Summer beach bash planned for July and starting it all again in Fall.

I also look back fondly at the time spent (it was a lot but no where near enough) with my daughter, Running Deer (Lacey), and the other dads and daughters (and often times their sons). From before the first event, Running Deer and I vowed not to miss anything this year and, except for one tribal meeting, we were successful. I, personally, wouldn't trade the time spent, the memories or the photos for anything. (If I have one regret, it's not having bought her a larger vest.)

As a tribe, the Shawnee learned at skatenight that we didn't have to lose certain Indian Princesses who had entered fourth grade (a wise and good tribal vote). We were well represented at the well organized October picnic and Pilgrim feast and enjoyed the wonderful weather at the parade. Camp Whittle, always an adventure, was wet but fun, cosmic bowling loud but fun, Camp Fox also wet but fun and the Jet Hawks game cold but fun. In addition to the Shawnee named above, Running Deer and I thank Claw of Grizzly, Little Hummingbird & Shooting Star (Ed,

Stephanie & Danielle R.), Wise Old Owl & Little Brown Bear (Randy & Rachel K.), Walking Bull & Swimming Dolphin (Dave & Elizabeth H.), Gray Wolf & Little Wolf (Al & Laura M.), Gray Eagle, Bright Eagle & Shimmering Eagle (Tom, Megan & Missy L.), Running Buffalo & Wild Flower (Issam & Gabriella N.) and Mohawk & Running Bird (Chris & Marina S.) for their meetings, their fellowship and their friendship. For my part, it has been an honor to be your Chief. We also thank all the moms who pitched in along the way and Josie and the Y staff for making this such a great year.

Don't work for but do work worthy of recognition.

See you at the campout.

Chief Falling Rock

## **Daniel P Faigin**

**From:** brian williams [brianw@ndiusa.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, May 24, 2003 7:34 AM

**To:** JOSIE REA (JosieRea@ymcala.org)

**Subject:** BLACKFEET SMOKE SIGNALS

Another season has gone by and we approach our final event of the year, Spring Family Campout.

The Blackfeet have enjoyed many meetings and events on the calendar this year and have formed some solid friendships between both the dads and the boys. It has been especially nice to see how our seasoned veteran, Casey J. has been like a big brother to all the younger lads, thank you Casey.

There are a couple of events that the Blackfeet especially enjoy, Camp Fox and The Jethawks game. Once again this year, we assembled in the mid afternoon heat of Lancaster prior to the ballgame to set up camp and spend a couple hours launching rockets and to bbq hot dogs for dinner! It was great fun. The heat did not keep the boys from charging around allover the place trying to retrieve the returning rockets!

We are expecting to have all of our tribe ( fourteen in total ) return next season and possibly welcome a couple of new members to our fun loving group!

The role of Tribal Cheif will be handed over to Jeff 'Kicking Dog' V. next year. Jeff will make a great leader and I am sure he will approach the upcomming year with his usual enthusiasm!

Thanks to all of our dads for hosting great monthly meetings this year, maybe next year we can go start a new tradition and plan some of our own 'field trip' adventures?

Until September,

How How,

Chief Prowling Bear.

# *Indian Guides & Princesses Spring Family Campout – June 6 - 8*

*North Valley Family YMCA at Porter Ranch*

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Activities at the campout include sand castle contest, kite fly, nation games and an awesome campfire. The campout will be held at Sycamore Canyon located in Point Mugu State Park, north of Leo Carrillo. Directions: Highway 1 north from Malibu area, Sycamore Canyon Campground will be on your right side of the highway past Leo Carrillo. Check in at the gate, the gates do close at 10:00 p.m. Campsites will be pre-assigned and check in time is no earlier than

2:00 p.m. Dogs must be leashed at all times and are not allowed on trails.



## *Schedule of Activities*

Friday	Free Time and Tribal Fun
Saturday	Camp Games 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  Beach Activities 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Kite Fly Contest and Sand Castle Contest Judging at 3:00 p.m.  Graduation and Campfire 7:30 p.m.

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*North Valley Family YMCA at  
Porter Ranch  
818-368-3231*

**North Valley Family YMCA  
SPRING FAMILY CAMPOUT  
BIG SYCAMORE CANYON  
Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Registration Form**

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ number of nights = \_\_\_\_\_ PCS: 806-18

Number of patches \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ PCS: 806-19

We are coming just for the day \_\_\_\_\_ (Pay for parking at the gate, parking will be in the day use parking lot.)

Name of graduating child \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*Please be sure to turn in a graduation picture by Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> for the graduation plaque\*\*\*

*North Valley Family YMCA at Porter Ranch, 11336 Corbin Ave., Northridge 91326  
Fax 818-368-5437*

Make checks payable to North Valley Family YMCA

or

Credit card payments: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

-----Office Use Only-----

Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Batch #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Year book Sale

*PCS: 806-20*



The Annual North Valley Family YMCA

Indian Guides and Princesses

Yearbook must be ordered by the  
Spring Family Campout. The cost for

the book is \$20.00 per book.

*Order your copy today!*

*Call Josie at 368-3231 ext. 2305 to  
order your book. You will be  
contacted when the books are  
ready to be picked up*

*Books must be ordered by June 15, no  
late orders will be accepted.*

## Order Here

Name:

Tribe:

Payment:

### **North Valley Family YMCA at Porter Ranch**

11336 Corbin Ave.  
Northridge, CA 91326

Phone: 818-368-3231

Fax: 818-368-5437