



Hello Guides & Princesses:

Greetings from the Chief.

I don't know about you all, but to me the holiday season feels like it was about six months ago already! The kids are back in school, the older children taking finals and the days and weeks just fly by.

As I am sure most of you know by, the YMCA's national organization decided to change the program's name to 'Adventure Guides' and therefore drop the 'Indian' name from our group. It was decided by Josie that we in the North Valley YMCA will be known as the 'Y Guides and Y Princesses'. I write this to clarify our position as I have received many calls on the subject. To quote a member of the Simi Valley 'Y', "It's still about the significance of time spent with parents and youngsters" and I agree!

For those of you who missed the Granada Hills Parade as I did, it was another fine

turn out from our tribes with close to 250 members marching and riding down Chatsworth Street. I heard there was absolutely miles of silly string sprayed throughout the parade route prior to the rain coming at the end of the afternoon. I think Josie must be paying someone off on the float voting committee as yet again the North Valley YMCA scored a first place trophy!!! Thanks to Greg Hamlin for his generous donation of time and resources for the two floats.

Camp Whittle was another fun weekend, this was the first Whittle trip I have missed in 5 or 6 years! Judging by the reports I got back from the Mohicans and Blackfeet everyone had a great time. Once the rain turned into snow I heard the children enjoyed all the usual Camp activities. With a blue sky on Saturday it sounded like the sledding was great as were the nation games especially the 'TP' one. Thanks to the Shawnee, Mohave and Sioux North for

taking the time to organize the games. A total of 16 groups attended with 204 actual members. The Chief's reported at the recent Longhouse meeting that the food at camp was excellent and the 14 songs and skits lasted well over an hour, great job.

Next up on our agenda is Cosmic Bowling at the Matador Bowl in Northridge on February 7th. Please be sure to call Josie to book your spot or book on - line as space goes quickly. This is a father and child event. The Chinook and Cree tribe will be taking care of business at the event.

Following that comes Camp Fox on March 12-14th. Again, please 'book early'. See the flyer in this edition of Smoke Signals for more information.

Starting February, the 'Y' kicks off its annual 'Support Campaign' which raises money for many YMCA programs including 'Y Guides and Princesses'. I hope each tribe can find a way to participate in this process to help those people less fortunate than ourselves! We have a lofty goal to reach but I know that we can do it. Please try to help in any way you can.

Always remember our slogan 'Pals forever'.

Until Cosmic Bowling, everyone take care.

Brian Williams
Nation Chief

NATION CALENDAR
2003 - 2004

Cosmic Bowling	Feb. 7
Camp Fox	March 12 - 14
Nation Event	April
Sports Event	May
Spring Family Campout	June 4 - 6

COSMIC BOWLING

Join the Ga-Sioux Nation at Matador Bowl on Saturday, February 7th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. You must pre-register for this event at the YMCA or by calling Josie at 818-368-3231 by Wednesday, February 4th. The cost for this event is \$15 per bowler which includes 2 hours of bowling, shoes and patch. Patches only are \$3. Check-in begins at 5:00 p.m. on the day of the event. Be sure to arrive early.

TRIBAL NEWS

SHAWNEE TRIBE

The Shawnee are really enjoying ourselves. We look forward to our meetings because they have been fun and varied. We were well taken care of by the Eagle Clan (The Leo's) Gray (Tom), Shimmering (Megan), and Bright (Melissa). They wowed us with a wonderful holiday meeting which ended with the construction of edible gingerbread houses. Thanks to Suzie Eagle for her excellent mix of sugar mortar!

Whittle was by far the best yet. Once the rain turned to snow on Friday night, it was uphill all the way. Josie and her crew took good care of us especially with the crafts. We're still trying to perfect our lanyard knots. Special thanks to Jim (Bald Eagle) Boyer and Gwenn (Brown Sparrow) for their ideas for the nation games. The MUMMY WRAP was a big success!!

On Sunday, several of us stayed after most of the camp had gone home and found a wonderful secret sleigh riding trail. The sun was out, the temp about 65, the snow well packed, the sledding was fast, and the rides were long. Next, the X games for us!

Rachel (Rearing Horse) and I (Big Buffalo) would like to thank our tribal brothers and sisters for making this such a great group. Thanks to Rick and Lacy, Ed, Danielle and Stephanie (congratulations on your artwork for the Whittle T shirts), Issam and Gabriella, David and Elizabeth, Troy, Macy, and Kendall, Randy and Rachel, Jim, Carly and Hallie as well as those already mentioned above.

For now, Peace.

Big Buffalo

CREE TRIBE

Cree, Cree, Cree

Just a quick Happy New Year to all the Cree members from Chief Crazy Horse. We all had a great time at Dec. meeting at my house. All the girls and dads had fun making ginger bread houses and decorating them with candy. Samantha was in the Philippines for the holiday, so we decided to call her and wish a Merry Christmas and tell her how much we missed her. Camp whittle was fantastic. It was great to be in Wagner lodge, our own private bathroom... pretty cool!. We sure did a great job singing our new Cree Song at the campout. I would like to introduce our new members in the tribe. Sebastian Barbarian (Standing Bull) and his daughter Gabriella (Singing Bluebird). Also Rob Shaffer (Full Moon) and his two daughters, Brooke (Shooting Star) and Peyton (Little Dipper). All the members had a great time meeting you at Camp Whittle. To my Tribe Members, Thanks for all the great times we had in the past year with our daughters. I really enjoy being Chief. Happy New Year! Looking forwards to 2004!

Gregg Ledergerber,
(Chief Crazy Horse)

CHINOOK TRIBE

A very Happy New Year to all of our fellow tribes! And what a great way to start the new year off but with perfect weather and perfect sledding up at Camp Whittle. Joining in on the fun were Stephanie, Juliette, Anna, Emily, Hannah, Elizabeth, Kyra, and Molly. And our compliments to the chef for the turkey dinner on Saturday night, which this chief thought was outstanding.

Earlier in December we held our meeting at the home of Dancing Fawn and White Tiger (Stephanie and Juliette). What made this meeting extra special was 100 percent attendance -- that's 17 princesses and 15 guides!! After some pizza and a Christmas craft, the girls did some dancing and showed our newer members what passing the talking stick is all about. Thanks to everybody for turning out for the fun.

We have an extra special surprise planned for our January meeting, and then it's on to February and one of our favorite events -- Cosmic Bowling. Our thanks to Chief Gregg from the Cree Tribe for designing the patch. See you all in a couple of weeks. Chinook rocks!

Chief Singing Wind

FLOWER WOLVES

The dads at Camp Whittle were so proud of how their daughters teamed up and helped each other during the weekend! Everyone contributed or found something for the scavenger hunt -- for instance, Daniella "Little Heart" and Leora "Little Angel" Wenger contributed their state quarter collection (sorry -- no Arkansas quarter yet), Julia "Angel Petals" Schwartz contributed a brand-new \$2 bill she had just gotten from her Grammy, and Alicia "Purple Butterfly" Silverman contributed her purple toothbrush after some encouragement from her older sister Becky "Purple Rose" and dad Ed "Purple Planet." (Ed will soon be changing the family name from "Silverman" to "Purpleman.")

Alicia did get her toothbrush back and her smile is as white as ever, and we finally found some Arkansas quarters for Daniella and Leora (too late for the scavenger hunt, alas).

Saturday afternoon we tried to go "sledding" behind the dining hall but there was only about 2-3 inches of fresh snow so it was more like "sliding downhill on random patches of grass and ice." Our three "Mister Bigs" -- "Big Heart" Jim Wenger, "Big Eagle" Mitch Shultz, and "Big Flower" Dave Hizami -- stood at the bottom of the slope to keep the girls from hurtling into random rocks or trees, anxious to prevent a repeat of last year when Ed S. broke his arm after using said arm to stop an out-of-control toboggan. (Dave H. did, however, perform a spectacular -- and unintended -- back flip on an ice patch.)

Our "sledding" adventure prompted the girls to team up to write and choreograph their own Saturday evening "sledding" skit (which turned out to be among the cleaner presented that night). Stars included (in addition to the aforementioned thespians) Sarah "Little Rose" Hizami, Shaina "Floating Dove" and Nicole "Little Snow Feather" Shultz, and Ariela "Tiger Lily" and Talia "Racing Rabbit" Subar. Although last-minute contract and labor disputes erupted which threatened to delay the opening, Dave "Lots of Cubs" Subar engaged the girls in a vigorous round of mediation and the skit went on as planned.

We are looking forward to Camp Fox in March, but some of the newer dads may be scared now that the other dads regaled them with stories (some quite graphic) about the now-legendary boat ride out in March 2002. (Hey, maybe that's an idea for our next skit -- nah.)

-- Doug "Laughing Bear" Schwartz

THE RISING STARS TRIBE

Camp Whittle was a blast for our Princesses and dad's alike! My congratulations to all of the members of our tribe on their diligent and creative efforts on the Scavenger Hunt resulting in 1st Place! The Nation Games, playing in the snow and crafts were all a lot of fun. It was especially great to have our complete tribe caravan & spend the weekend together. Our three new "stars" are a great addition to the tribe. Thank you to the Shawnee, Mohave and Sioux North tribes for sponsoring such an enjoyable event. A special Thanks to our Merry Minstrel Raven for once again creating and teaching the girls another fun song to sing at the "camp fire" and allowing himself to be TP'd during the nation games. By the way, what kind of hat was that?

We are looking forward to our meeting this week as well as Cosmic Bowling & the upcoming trip to Camp Fox. See you all soon!

Chief Fire Keeper

MOHAVE TRIBE

The Mohave tribe's January meeting was held in the den of Red Fox and Little Red Fox. This month's science experiment, we're doing a different one each month, involved sucking a balloon into a bottle; which is a pretty neat trick and rather useful if you ever run out of corks.

The big event of the month, however, was Camp Whittle. Unfortunately, with colds, flu and other nasty things circulating, a few members were unable to make the trip. For those that did make it, it was a winter wonderland; with snow enough for perilously fast sledding, saucering and sliding, even better and colder than last year.

One of the best things about Y-guides is the fond memories it creates for fathers, sons and daughters. Two indelible memories from this year will no doubt be Mohave's entrant in the mummy contest, pictured below, and the rousing rendition of "Who Let the Dads Out" Who!?! Who!?!.



CREE TRIBE



RISING STARS TRIBE



MOJAVE TRIBE



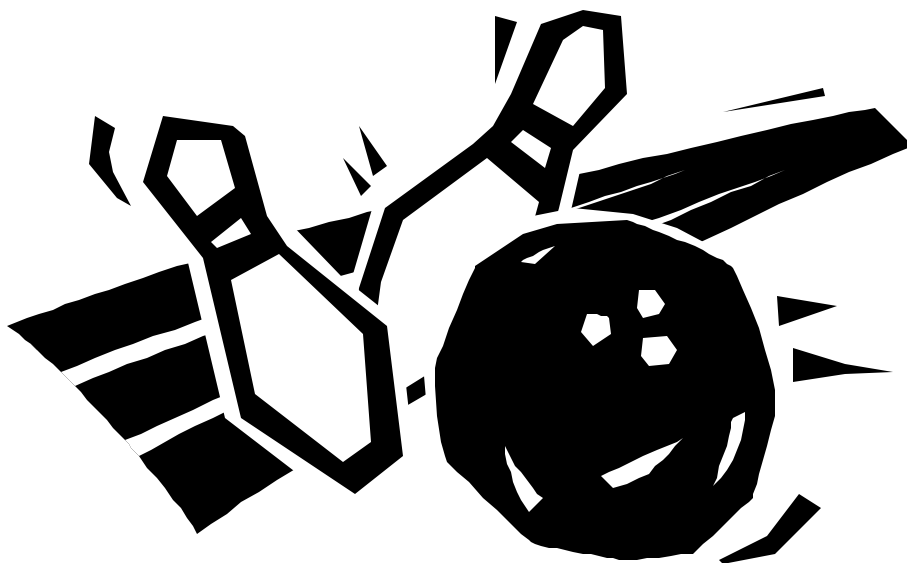
CHINOOK TRIBE



FLOWER WOLVES TRIBE

Guides & Princesses Cosmic Bowling Saturday, Feb. 7

North Valley Family
YMCA at Porter Ranch



Saturday, February 7
5:30 - 7:30 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 – Source Code: 550.FL.0806.32

\$3.00 per dad – Source Code: 550.FL.0806.33

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

Everyone must pre-register by Feb. 4

**North Valley Family YMCA
Guides & Princesses**

Camp Fox

March 12 to March 14, 2004

Cost: \$112 per person

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.34



INCLUDES: The fee includes all camp activities (hiking, fishing, kayaking, row boats, campfire, Frisbee golf, scavenger hunt, and nation games), patches, lodging, boat transportation and meals (Breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday). Accommodations will be in cabins or villas (open beach front cabins), sign up early, cabins do fill up.

DEADLINE: Register by Friday, March 5th. No refunds after March 5th.

DEPARTURE/RETURN: We will depart from the Catalina Sea and Air Terminal in San Pedro. The boat is scheduled to leave at 6:00 p.m., loading begins approximately 30 minutes prior to our departure. Check in will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the YMCA staff. We are scheduled to be picked up at camp on Sunday at approximately 1:00 p.m.

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

**North Valley Family YMCA
GUIDES & PRINCESSES CAMP FOX
Catalina Island
Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 14, 2004**

Registration Form

Father: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

550.FL.0806.34

Number of people _____ X \$112.00 = _____

Accommodations Requested:

_____ Cabin _____ Villa (Open cabins on the beach)

Accommodations will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Those who register after the cabins are filled will be placed in the Villas.

If Dad is in two tribes, he will be sleeping with the _____ tribe.

Please send your registration form to Josie at the YMCA. Registration deadline is Friday, March 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Josie at the YMCA at 818-368-3231 ext. 2305.

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 #: