



SMOKE SIGNAL

December 2004

Greetings from the Chief

Hello Dads, Guides & Princesses:

As we approach the holiday season, I would like for us all to take a few minutes out of our day and speak with our children about those in this world that don't have the same opportunities as we have. And a heart-felt prayer for our troops that have placed themselves in harms way so that we may enjoy all of our freedoms that we have. We are very fortunate and blessed to have such wonderful families and to be brought together through the YIP / YIG program.

Due to our unfortunate rain-out of the Nation Picnic last month, the Pilgrim Feast was only our second event of the year. Our first event, Skate-Night was the most highly attended event in Ga-Sioux history. The turn-out for the Pilgrim Feast was astonishing as well. Josie informs me that we had 202 attendees which is wonderful. We don't have final figures yet, but Josie tells me that we inducted at least 30 new members. We were not able to have our normal accommodations of Stroup Hall, but the out-of-doors worked out beautifully. The delivery of the induction ceremony was an absolute hoot with Dan Adams deserving of an Academy Award for his rendition of "Medicine Man" and great performances by the four winds (Troy King, John LaSalle, Rob Shaffer and Rick Early... Thanks guys!), and I believe that my daughter Swimming Dolphin (Jamie) was truly touched to be sung "Happy Birthday" to by

so many voices. The raffle was a rousing success. We raised \$970 this year, which beats last year's raffle by \$240. The Y will put that money to good use. Thanks for everyone's participation and a very special "Thank You" to Brian Friedman for the coordination of the raffle (I'm still waiting for my sunglasses). I would also like to extend special thank you's to the Black Feet, Chumash and Mohican tribes for their unwavering sponsorship and help. Scott Stanley is also deserving of recognition for his contributions... Thanks Scott!

About an hour after we had packed everything up, several of our members got together and performed a rain dance. It was an absolute success as the heavens opened up and poured buckets of rain all over the valley. I even saw some snow up on the hills near Santa Clarita the next day, so it was quite a blustery storm.

The campfire and songs were performed admirably by Josie and Terry. I think that the most fun thing to do is to watch a "first-timer" as everyone sings all of these campfire songs. They truly have incredulous looks on their faces. Many people stayed after to help move all of the tables back, clean-up the parking lot, rest rooms and tables, help Josie pack up the trailer with her lights, tables and various items and to haul bags of trash over to the dumpsters. All of your help was truly appreciated and I'm sure your kids notice your attitude of

(continued on next page)

Calendar 2004 - 2005

Granada Hills Holiday Parade
Sunday, December 5

Camp Whittle
January 7 - 9

Cosmic Bowling
February 5

Camp Fox
March 11 - 13

Vasquez Rocks
April

Jethawks Baseball
May

Spring Family Campout
June

**Holiday Parade
Sunday,
December 5 at
1:30 p.m.**

A word from the Chief (continued)

pitching in! Let's keep it up.

To those who brought cans of food for the food drive, rest assured that it went to a wonderful cause and thanks to Josie for handling that.

Our next event is the Holiday Parade. Their theme this year is "Holidays Around The World", so use your imagination. Josie informed us that our position in the parade is number 36. That's a much lower number than I remember in recent history. Just don't forget your vests and of course your cans of "silly string".

The early forecast for Camp Whittle is (of course) for lots and lots of snow. Make sure to plan on bringing your sleds, gloves and the rest of your snow gear. If anyone is looking to arrive early on Monday, January 7, Josie will be up there all week with another group so we will have no problem with early arrivals.

Chief Shooting Bull

RISING STARS TRIBE

November is always the busiest meeting for Rising Stars. First, we discussed what we had to be thankful for. Besides family and friends, we are also thankful for the earth, the sky, and the garbage man. We decorated and added five new stars to the banner, and passed our seven new Rising Stars patches (check one out on your favorite tribe member), and then we got to make our Thanksgiving crafts (suitable for hanging on your refrigerator). From our Induction ceremony to the Nation Induction ceremony, were being outdoors was a nice change or pace, I feel proud of how our tribe has grown closer together and I look forward to our next time together (and all the times after that). I wish you well.

The Raven Chief



CHINOOK TRIBE

Greetings Mighty Chinook -

A BIG Chinook thanks to the Ambrose family for hosting the October meeting – The company was great as was all the food! The costumes were spectacular also! Great job girls and dads...

Another BIG Chinook thanks goes out to the great spirit of the weather for keeping the Pilgrim Feast dry. We all had a great time. Thanks to all the dads who contributed funds to our raffle item. For those Chinook who were not at the Pilgrim Feast, we went in with the Cree Tribe and donated a Poker Chip set. Texas hold'em anyone?

One last BIG Chinook thanks goes out to the Simons family for hosting tonight's meeting... Knowing Larry (and Nancy), I am sure it will be a success!

Finally, the Christmas Parade is coming; don't forget to stock up on Silly String!

Friends Always,

Chief Laughing Buck

WAPPO TRIBE

The Wappo tribe held its first meeting at Little and Big Sleeping Bear's home. Chief Night Owl led the boys in a brief ceremony and the boys enthusiastically took turns talking. Wappo means brave. Our gracious hosts provided pizza, drinks and cookies. The tribe is looking for a few first grade or kindergarten members. The tribe members were disappointed at the cancellation of the picnic but are looking forward to a fun year of activities.

BLACKFEET TRIBE

How how! The Blackfeet got their Nation obligations out of the way by co-hosting the Pilgrim Feast this past weekend. With Josie's help all obstacles were overcome and it was a great barbecue and campfire under the stars. Many thanks to Morning Bear, Screaming Eagle, Howling and Running Coyote, and Star Catcher who helped with preparations and tear down, and also to the generosity of Prowling Bear and Howling Coyote for their raffle prize donations. All the Blackfoot braves are looking forward to float painting and the Holiday Parade next week, and hope that we are in front of the horses this year!



Save the Date

Cosmic Bowling

Saturday

February 5

at

Matador Bowl

CHEYENNE TRIBE

Way to go Cheyenne our last meeting was a huge success and we had a great turn out thanks to our host Two Birds and his sons Double Eagle and Tomahawk. The evening started out with steaming hot pizza and drinks at the Sepulveda Basin Rec Area. The boys loved horsing around and playing tag as they hid behind trees and the picnic tables. Afterwards we were treated to an hour long instruction on how to use a bow and arrow at the facilities there. The instructors were very patient with the boys as they learned the fine art of bowmanship. Several of the children became quite good, scoring consistently on target. We finished up the evening with piping Hot Chocolate, Candy Apples and the Formal Meeting.



Chief White Horse and Cool Wind

SHAWNEE TRIBE

To much fun! To much fun! Can you say that? To much fun! The Shawnees are having a Gobble of a good year so far. To start this month off we had great meeting over at Claws teepee. Thanks to Ed, Stephanie, and Danielle Riley for hosting a fantastic meeting with yummy eats and the return of the hanging door Turkey.(Gobble Gobble) Way to Go Riley's.

What can you say about the smell and taste of BBQ ribs and chicken? How about a "Pilgrims Feast Baby"! A big woopsie- woopsie- woosoo to the Chumash and Blackfoot tribes for taking care of our Nation at this event. (No Rain until after the event, now that's some tight shanizzle dizzle on the razzle dazzle finizzle!) The Shawnee tribe would like to wish our Brothers and Sisters a much blessed Holiday season. Merry Christmas to our little Reindeer's, Gwyn, Macey, Kendall, Lacey, Rachel Z, Rachel K, Danielle, Stephanie, Gabriella, Christina, Meagan, Melissa, Carly...The true Lights of Brightness come from these Girls, as each one represents a special Angel upon our family tree. Happy Holidays to All of you from All of us....and please don't shadazzle drivzzle if you capizzle with the fizzle dizzle. It's just not a good idea.

Sitting Bull, How How

APACHE TRIBE

The Apache gathered at Yoda's Teepee for our tribal gathering to celebrate the month of the Mad Moon. The boys all had fun crafting Pine Cone Turkeys in celebration of Thanksgiving. After the turkeys were crafted the boys continued their foosball tournament while others decorated our entry for the Pilgrim Raffle. Everyone gave a warm Apache welcome to our newest members Jay and his son Ryan. And a special thanks to Don and Bobby for donating the raffle items.



We feasted like true pilgrims and the new members were proudly inducted into the GA-Sioux Nation. The Pilgrim Feast was a big hit with the Apache tribe. A few of us feasted like warriors after the hunt. Most of the Apache tribe was there to participate in the raffle and campfire. The chief was lucky enough to walk away with Clipper tickets from the raffle, now he just needs to convince his kids that not all NBA games end in riots. The boys had fun playing ball before the campfire songs and gave their best rendition of Super Lizard. The Apache caught on film are Snow Warrior, Hungry Vulture Foot in Mouth, Laughing Crow, Jay, Snow Lizard, Red Cloud, Bear Fisher, Soaring Eagle, Unknown guide from another tribe and Ryan. Thanks to Josie, John, Mohicans, Chumash and Blackfeet for a great Pilgrim Feast.

Chief Snow Warrior

THE MIGHTIEST FERNANDENOS

The tribe had a wonderful meeting at the home of Big Thunder (Paul Volchok) and the assistant chief of the night Leah. The Mightiest Fernandeno looks forward to awarding each member who can say the Pledge of Allegiance, unassisted, with and American flag to sew onto her vest. Running Pony (Gabriella) has earned her American flag. After our pizza dinner and opening ceremonies, the girls began to design their secret projects that will be unveiled at Camp Whittle. Greying Wolf (Greg Mogab) and daughter Bright Eagle (Julianne) will be hunting the skins required for the secret project. Little Ladybug (Emily) and Little Butterfly (Elizabeth) made a grand presentation of their secret project and it was received by the tribe members with ooozzz and aaahhhss. Not to be outdone, Starlight (Maddi) kept everyone entertained with her energy filled stories. Rainbow was of course as bright as ever. At the Pilgrim Feast, Big Buck (Sidney Blum) and Greying Wolf realized they should have purchased a \$200 block of tickets and they would have won over 1/2 of the prizes that were given away. Next year, watch out for the big bucks will be spent. The next tribe meeting will be at the home of Greying Wolf. The Mightiest Fernandenos wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

MOHICAN TRIBE

This year a great time was had by all at the Pilgrim Feast, and it was nice that we could be a part of such a worthwhile event. The event helped the girls understand a little bit more about charitable causes. The Indian gods looked down upon us, and gave us a beautiful evening before the storm. The last minute switch from indoors to outdoors worked out for the best. The girls seemed to enjoy the open air and the freedom it allowed them.

The tribe is excited to hear that we surpassed the goal we needed in order to purchase the new P.A. system that is so desperately needed. Most of all the girls enjoyed their night of singing, eating smores, and hanging out with their dads. We look forward to the Parade coming early next month. The Mohican Tribe will be there with smiles on their faces and silly string in their hands.

Also, it will be hard to top the crafts from our last meeting. Greg and Ally were fantastic hosts, and the beautiful Thanksgiving centerpieces in which the girls made, will make a great addition to mom's holiday decorations. We want to send a speedy recovery to Sarah Leeper, and let her know she was missed at the last event.

Chief Thundering Cloud

CREE TRIBE



The Cree had our tribal meeting at Rob & Peyton Shaffer's home on November 17th. Nobody has better hospitality than Kim Shaffer when it comes to feeding the large amounts of people. We discussed the upcoming Pilgrim Feast and the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. We also discussed our hosting the Nation Picnic and it merging with the Vasquez Rocks in April of 2005.

The Cree had 5 families at the Pilgrim Feast and some of us participated with the ceremonies. We brought a sheet cake for Jamie Taylor who attended on her 9th birthday. Did anyone notice that Josie looked a little nervous when the helicopter flew overhead?

The 2004-2005 Cree Family want to welcome our newest members Dana & Alyssa Brenner. Alyssa also attends school and carools with Peyton Shaffer at West Valley Christian. Alyssa is in the 1st Grade. The Brenner's attended their first meeting at the Shaffer's home and also went to the Pilgrim Feast. They were one of the lucky ones and won a CD Boom box. I wanted to explain our customs of prizes go to the Chief, but Dana is too wise for such nonsense.

We have one more Father / Daughter team still pending, Marvin & Alizel Villueneva of Northridge. Hopefully they will be at our next tribal event.

Cree Cree Cree

Granada Hills Holiday Parade

Sunday, December 5

1:30 p.m.



“Holidays Around the World”

Staging Area: We will be meeting on Petit St., north of Chatsworth. We are number 36.

Cost: \$3 per patch. Chiefs or a tribal representative will collect the money for the tribe at the parade for the patches.

Time: Parade starts at 1:30 p.m., make sure you are there at least 1/2 hour before we start.

Hint: Leave cars at the end of the parade route and carpool to the start of the parade. It will save the two mile walk back.

Parade is held rain or shine.

NORTH VALLEY FAMILY YMCA GUIDES & PRINCESSES

CAMP WHITTLE JANUARY 7-9

COST: \$85 per person

Source Code: 550.FL.0808.48



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

DEADLINE: Money due at the YMCA by Friday, December 31.

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

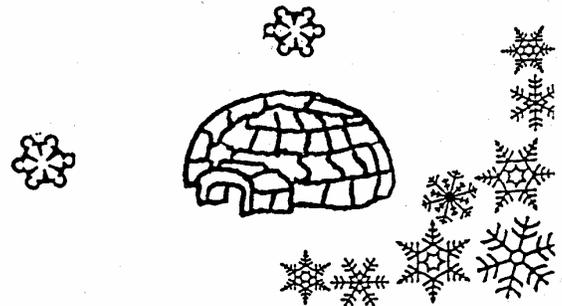
Indian vests and headbands(YIP/YIG only)

Snow toys (inner tubes, sleds, disca)

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.



Directions to YMCA Camp Whittle

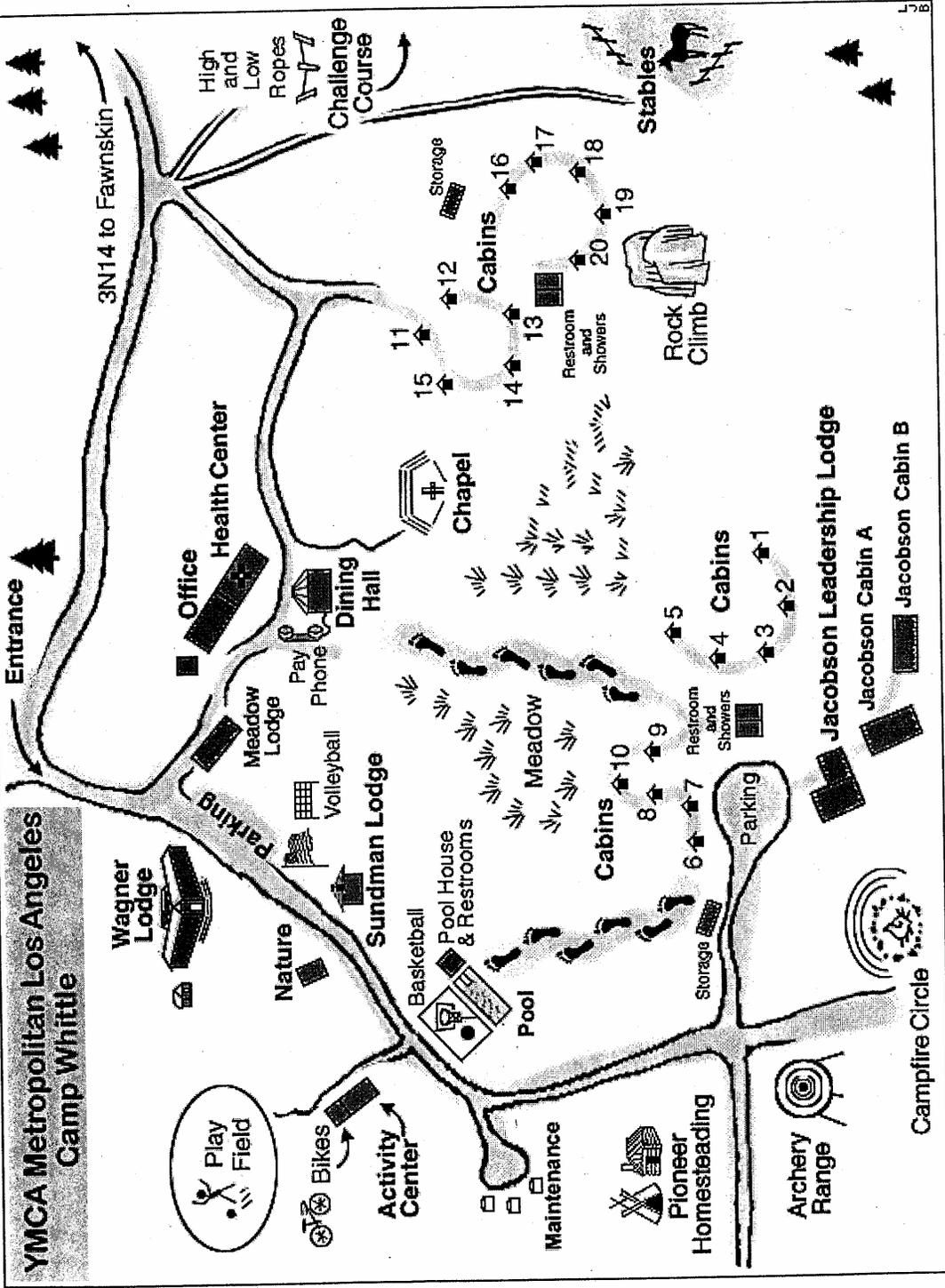
Take Interstate 10 to the city of Redlands, and then head north on Highway 30. Soon you'll see Highway 330 and signs that say "Mountain Resorts/Ski Areas". Take the 330 into the mountains, and follow this through Running Springs. After Running Springs, the official name of the road will change to Highway 18. Follow this until you reach the dam at the west side of Big Bear Lake. Go straight here (do not go over the dam), towards Fawnskin, and the name of the road will again change, this time to Highway 38. After about 2.5 miles of driving next to the lake, you will reach Fawnskin. Total distance from Redlands to Fawnskin is about 25 miles.



Once you are in the small town of Fawnskin, make a left on Rim of the World Drive (right next to a large paved lot and the Fire Station) and follow this road and the signs two miles up into the hills. The road will be paved for a short while, then turns to a well graded dirt road. YMCA Camp Whittle is on the left hand side, with big signs marking your arrival.



The physical address is 31701 Rim of the World Drive, Fawnskin, CA 92333. Mailing Address is P.O. Box 70, Fawnskin, CA 92333-0070. Camp office phone: 909-866-3000.



YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
Camping Services



WHEN TRAVELING IN THE MOUNTAINS DURING WINTER.....

1. Fill your radiator with anti-freeze, check your tires, hoses, belts, exhaust system and brakes before leaving home.
2. Carry a windshield ice-scraper, first aid kit, functional jack, tools, extra water, shovel, flashlight and blankets.
3. Be sure to have properly sized tire chains and know how to use them. Try them on before you leave.
4. Bring a tarp, piece of carpet, blanket or something similar to lie on when you need to install your tire chains on the snow.
5. Install you tire chains at a safe location, wear bright colors. Never drive over 25 mph with chains on a vehicle.
6. Reduce your speed at the first sign of moisture, watch for ice that may appear only as a damp place in the road.
7. Other useful items: jumper cables, starting fluid, safety reflectors, fire extinguisher, flashlight, rope, extra clothing, knife, extra rubber chain adjusters, blankets, gloves, socks, wool hat. A small bag of kitty litter is useful for gaining traction on the ice when spread in front of the tires.

Enjoy your winter outing to the mountains, but remember the conditions can change without warning. Anticipate what lies ahead, proceed safely, be highly visible and always leave word with friends or family regarding your itinerary.

Call ahead to inquire about highway or weather conditions. For the Big Bear Lake area, San Bernardino Mountains call 909-866-SNOW.