

SMOKE SIGNAL

January 2005

Calendar 2005

Cosmic Bowling
February 5

Camp Fox
March 11 - 13

Vasquez Rocks
April 10

Jethawks Baseball
May

Spring Family Campout
June 3 - 5

Greetings from the Chief

Hello Dads, Guides & Princesses:

I'm truly astounded that, once again, another month has elapsed on this year. The kids are all back in school with the break for the holidays as only a distant memory.

Well, weather certainly has played a role for this year's activities. We were rained out in October for our nation picnic and experienced what many have called a weather anomaly for our Camp Whittle experience. As most of you are aware, our two-night camping experience turned into an unplanned three-nighter for the majority of us. We had an incredible rainstorm show up on Saturday and completely ruin and destabilize the beautiful snow that was already on the ground. The rain turned snow banks into ice dams which quickly filled up with water flooding cabins, lodges and even some cars. The dads and Guides and Princesses all acted marvelously and pitched in to help out the staff and others as needed. We all became more of a family than we were before that experience, and for that I am

grateful. For those of you that weren't able to experience it, there were dads and kids cleaning, cooking, doing dishes, helping shovel for others, digging out cars, pulling others out of the water-filled gully in the meadow. It was quite an awesome experience for everyone involved. There were many, many heroes, but I would like to point out just a few. First of all, Russ from camp went above and beyond to get everyone out of camp, Josie kept everyone in line and was the one to pull Russ out of his icy abyss and Terry and Sarah were always there pitching in (completely as volunteers, I might add).

Anyway, up until the grounds turned into muck, there was incredible sledding, snow-shoeing, crafts and other activities. It was quite a winter wonderland.

Our next event is Cosmic Bowling. It takes place at Matador Bowl on Balboa. Details are elsewhere in this flyer, so please be sure to attend. Also, Dads are allowed to sign-up for bowling this year, so please do partake.

Cosmic Bowling

Matador Bowl

February 5

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

A word from the Chief (continued)

Again, Camp Fox will be a limited engagement due to their septic problems, so please be sure to register early for that event. I'm reasonably certain that we won't have a lot of snow to deal with over on Catalina.

Starting in February, the YMCA kicks off their annual 'Support Campaign' which raises money for the different YMCA programs (including this program). Each tribe has been appointed a representative and it is my hope that each of you will be able to participate in some way. We have a lofty goal, but if we all pitch in I think it is obtainable. Please try to help in any way you can.

I'll see you all at Cosmic Bowling.

Shooting Bull

Nation Chief

THE MIGHTIEST FERNANDENOS

Congratulations to the Mightiest as they proved their snow trekking abilities. No snow swept rainstorms kept the Mightiest from building their anatomically correct snowwoman or sledding down the steepest mountains. It was the Mightiest who plowed the first trail across the Camp Whittle meadow in the darkness of Friday night..almost all five and six year old girls blazing the trail for the rest of the Y to follow. It was the Mightiest Fernandeno who helped answer the call to dig snow out from under the stalled suburban (thanks Joe . . . too bad about losing those car keys; however, you did get to go back up to Whittle for some more fun after we all left), it was the Mightiest Fernandenos who walked through so called "ankle deep" water that was really thigh height and filled with ice bergs the size of a desk, and it was the Mightiest Fernandeno who proved that Suburbans can also be used as boats as you drove your cars out of camp Monday morning without the benefit of tractor tow and the vehicles started to float in the winter water wonderland. Thanks to the YMCA for an experience we will never forget!!!

SHAWNEE TRIBE

When it rains, it pours! Mr.Abdominal Snowman: I can relate Babe!!!!... Enough said. You always hear stories about Camp Whittle and I must say this years journey will leave us ultimate stories to tell for a life time. The best E-ticket ever... Whittle X-treme!!:snow, rain, floods, ice rivers, the Cree tribe, John Taylor washing dishes,(was that a sight or what?) and the Backhoe that could never be. Having said all that, I am proud to be a "Shawnee" and a member of the Y tribes "Whittle "X" survival group 2005"!!! It was simply amazing in so many ways. The non-stop snow, the non-stop smiles and laughter of our daughters, they never stopped once. Even the yucky smell of burning socks, gloves and shoes set off a roar of laughter. BTW. hey Rick, I hope you throw those gloves away.....Please? And how about the never ending hot Chocolate machine. How did they keep it going for so many days???. We had DVD this and that, enough cookies and candies to surely get fat. I can't imagine what we would of done without all those golf umbrellas Jim B brought from home. Hey Jim, when were we suppose to play Golf? Well my boots are still wet and my toes are still cold, but at least we not like the Mohican or Chumash tribes who seemed to be afraid of going out into the cold. (He. he. he!) But seriously, do you know what the most amazing part was? The coming together of so many brave Dads and Kids during some really tough, and I mean really tough situations that Mother nature threw at us. (I still ain't Skeeered!!!) The "My Girls" Macey, Kendall, Hallie, Carly, Lacey, and last but not least Rachel.(can I get a laugh

girls???) You girls were so great and brave every step of the way, and really, your Dads are not crazy for bringing you on this trip..... okay, well just a little!...(LOL). Thanx to Tom, Meagan and Melissa Leo, our little Eagle family for a wonderful monthly meeting at their beautiful teepee.(next time for our arts and crafts we better go over tire chain installationLOL...

p.s. Greg, I think we have found the Cree cars, Now can somebody find the Cree? :)

Sitting Bull

Save the Date

Camp Fox

March 11 - 13

Register now at the

YMCA

Space is limited!

MOHAVE TRIBE

News from Mohave...

The big news this month was Camp Whittle. And what an experience it was. There were several feet of snow on the ground and the Mohave boys: Chase, Joel, Noah, Matthew M., Matthew P., Ryan, Justy, Craig, Chase and Ethan spent much of the first day, Friday, sledding and playing in the snow.



Saturday included some fun arts and crafts, particularly making shrinky dinks, and a little ping-pong and pool. Later in day the boys and dads went on a snowshoe hike and made a "horizontal" snowman. That evening it started to rain, and that's when Camp Whittle transformed into a high adventure outing.

Fortunately, Mohave are a hardy and well-prepared bunch. The dads kicked into high gear on Sunday digging out the cars and getting prepared to leave, but mother nature wasn't having any of it and she decided to give everyone an extra day at camp; what a deal three nights for the price of two! While the boys watched DVDs in the main lodge, the dads enjoyed such outdoor activities as the meadow-swim and the walk through knee-deep ice water – it's not so bad once your feet go numb.

Come Monday Mohave faced the biggest adventure of all, the drive out of camp, which included a lake crossing and a brief stop on the eroding rode. Ultimately, we all got out and 8 hours after getting into our cars we made it home.

Working together as father and son and as a tribe is what Y-guides is all about, and you couldn't have asked for a better experience to do so than Camp Whittle '05. A world of thanks goes out to Josie, Russ, Terry and all the other camp staff who worked so hard to make the best of a difficult situation and to get everyone home safely. I wonder what adventure they have planned for Camp Fox.

RISING STARS TRIBE

This little Rising Star went to Camp Whittle, this little Rising Star stayed home... While a few of our tribe braved the weather and travel up to camp, the other half found a variety of ways to entertain themselves in the rain at home. A bowling trip, a sleep over, roller skating, meals - a lot of bonding time in the Valley.

For those who decided to travel, we went for an interesting experience, and we truly had one. The Rising Stars sponsored the scavenger hunt (the first time we sponsored anything), and we congratulate the Cree for not only having the most items found, but for being the only one to admit to having Rogaine.

A measure of one's character is how one learns from adversity. Some of the things I learned:

- Don't skimp when it comes to weather-proof snow garments.
- Bring a good book; you may find time to read it.
- Good times can be found anywhere.
- Sometimes the weathermen are right.
- It's easy to jump to conclusions when you don't have all the information.
- People can make the opposite choices and still make the right decisions.
- The strongest friendships are those that do not avoid conflict.
- You can't be too prepared, but I wouldn't buy a 4x4 with snow tires just for next year.

Looking forward to drier event

The Raven Chief

CREE TRIBE

The entire Cree tribe and a large group of other YMCA campers got stranded in Big Bear this January. I was really pleased on how all of you Dads & Daughters handled this last extended weekend. We all stayed together and looked after each other until we escaped Camp Whittle. We have stories to tell our family and future generations.



We had to abandon our cabin, luggage and cars and make our way to the dining hall on Sunday evening. We spent Sunday night inside the dining area. We had Tom Hull's Honda CRV get flooded out. The girls were very sad not to be able to go to school on Monday!

The Cree girls did a great job on the scavenger hunt and took first place. We even had the Chinook immortalized our tribe. Thanks Jimmy ... we owe you!

Cree Cree Cree

Save the Date

Vasquez Rocks

Sunday

April 10

Family Event

CHUMASH TRIBE

CHUMASH SNOW BLAST:

The Chumash had a blast at Whittle with the Y-Guides gang,
The kids enjoyed the frosty snow and the silly songs we sang,

The snow came first, and then the rain, it really was a mess,
But now the kids are all trained well for future postal service!

The Whittle staff is to be praised for handling all the things,
They kept us warm for extra days and fed us just like Kings!

Some say the service should be better after what we paid,
But I once saw the camp St Bernard administer first aid!

Some have said that improved planning is a factor,
Still, we all got home because they had the sense to own a tractor!

It was our Wives who suffered most because they lacked the strong belief,
That Dads can be responsible for kids and not forget to brush their teeth.

All in all we had great fun a playing with our gals,
And enjoyed some extra bonding time with our Chumash pals!

"Dances with Flowers" Scott Cohen, Chief Mighty Chumash

* The Chumash were thrilled that our T-shirt design was selected for the event, but feel that our revised design may now be more applicable.



BLACKFEET TRIBE

The Blackfeet set new standards for tribe attendance, rounds of poker played, and vehicle damage incurred in the recent trip to Camp Whittle. We haven't had 100% turnout at an event all year, but as luck would have it we chose this one to bring all the boys together. Led by elder guide Hungry Bear, our young charges – Flaming Arrow, Running Coyote, Screaming Eagle and Star Catcher - showed outstanding patience and cooperation during our adventure. Despite being marooned inside



Jacobsen Lodge for the better part of 36 hours, we left with no blood spilled, a stock of videos still unplayed, and friendships intact while they occupied themselves with activities ranging from GameBoy marathons to yoga sessions. The attempt by Morning Bear (now known as "Ahab") to navigate the White Whale across the treacherous waters of Lake Whittle ended in near disaster as we identified the exact depth at which a Chrysler Town & Country will float. Laughing Bear put his new truck at risk and enhanced his off-road skills while navigating the rutted road with the Whale in tow, and will be the Blackfoot entry in next year's Baja 1000 (STOCK FULL Class). Howling Coyote showed exceptional courage and initiative in trekking across the slushy wastes to surprise us with breakfast Sunday morning and then repeated the feat for dinner that night. A huge Blackfoot salute to Seminole Bill for finding the forsaken Ahab wandering through Fawnskin and for driving several of us home Monday night. Many thanks to Josie, Terry and the rest of the staff for their assistance and pleasant company despite the extra demands placed upon them during such a stressful trip, and also to all the other chiefs and braves who pulled together to help each other and show such a great sense of community.

Chief Star Hunter

The Blackfeet

MOHICAN TRIBE

Snow + Rain = Stranded Campers

This years trip to Camp Whittle turned into quite an adventure. Six fathers and daughters decide to brave mother natures wrath and head up to Big Bear for some YMCA fun. We all decide to go up the back way and caravan together, staying in constant contact via Walkie-talkie's. The trip up was no problem at all and all the girls were very anxious to get to the snow and throw their first snow ball. When we got their, there was plenty of snow and it kept coming and coming. Aside from one dad getting stuck in a snow bank, all was well. We all settled in the Jacobson lodge. The girls were fast at work in the snow. Ana "Gentle Bear" Gougas was the first to score a direct hit on her dad. Heather "Dancing Cloud" Friedman was anxious to get started on her snowman and Lily "Snow Pony" Zea and Rachel "Flowering Rose" Lorsch were ready to start the sledding.

The next day was filled with more snow and snow related activities and hikes though the meadow to the mess hall for some awesome camp food. On the way we came upon a large igloo that some earlier campers created. Some serious time and effort went into to building it. As large as it was, it was missing one key element...indoor plumbing, don't ask. So we picked up the torch and decided to help out. The the direction of Skyler "Little Sky" Twersky we built a thrown fit for a king. We ended the day with the traditional YMCA campfire entertainment. This years our girls sang new song to an old familiar tune; The 12 days of Camping, see below. The girls did a great job and were especially loud on the 5th day verse, :). As a result of the song, it appears the Samantha "Running Deer" Holl has decided on a new career, the next Britney Spears.

On Sunday we packed up the car and prepared to leave. However the rains that had started the nigh before kept coming...and coming...and coming. So much that the roads were starting to flood and it appeared we were going to have to extend our stay. We had to break the news to the girls that we were going to have to stay a little longer and as a result they were going to have to miss school. Interestingly enough, none of them seem to mind. While the girls were off playing games and watching movies, the dad's were relegated to snow shoveling duty. By this time the snow had turned to slush, waste-high slush in some areas, which just added to the fun.

On Monday we were given the go ahead to pack up and head down the mountain. We all raced to line up our cars for the upcoming river-rafting trip. After two and half days of thundering rain, the entry into Camp Whittle had turned into a Class 3 rapid. The best way to describe it, was going on the "Parting of the Red-Sea ride at Universal Studios tram ride, however someone forgot to press the button for the pop-up walls. Cars had to either follow tractors or be towed. I am told the people for "Fear Factor" were interested in making this an event for an upcoming episode. At times the water was splashing over the hood of the SUV's and some cars did end up getting stuck. All the dads were seen High-5-ing each other and the girls all wanted to do it again. Once we made it through the river, we then had to straddle earthquake size cracks in the now deteriorating road.

We did all manage to get back to our homes safely, an 8 hour car trip aside. This trip was surely one for the ages and one that we will not soon be forgotten. When it was all said and done, it truly was a great adventure and something we can all look back on and have a good laugh. ;)

A special thanks to Josie, her team and the Camp Whittle staff for going above and beyond the call of duty. The stepped up and provided a lot of extra meals and made sure we were all informed and safe.

See you all at Camp Fox...make sure you bring the Dramamine. ;)

Gus "Proud Bear" Gougas

The Twelve Days of Camp

On the twelevth day of Camp Josie gave to me...

- Twelve total minutes of sleep
 - Eleven layers of clothing
 - Ten yummy smores
 - Nine silly skits
 - Eight sleds for sleighing
 - Seven soggy sandwiches
 - Six snoring dads
 - Five farting fathers
 - Four prairie cookies
 - Three cans of silly string
 - Two YMCA Patches
- And a cabin where I will freeze



APACHE TRIBE

Happy New Year to all from the Apache Tribe!



On Friday Jan. 7th, Big Squirrel & Little Squirrel, Wild Boar & Howling Wolf, Jumping Mustang & Gliding Hawk, and Laughing Crow & Soaring Eagle undertook the great migration up to Camp Whittle. Saturday was a perfect winter day - the constant snowfall provided much ammunition for snowball fights and great conditions for sledding. We found an excellent sledding hill and cheered Little Squirrel on his pursuit of big gnarly air. On Sunday the snow turned to rain and great waters flowed down the mountain, flooding the roads and trails. However, the Apaches stayed inside, enjoyed the Whittle Film Festival, and had fun making new friends with the other tribes. Monday was a great test of the tribe's skill; we learned to deal with chains, mud and the great flood. The Apache spirit shone through as we overcame all obstacles and made it home safe and sound. The tribe also wishes to thank the Camp Whittle staff for making our long stay very, very comfortable.

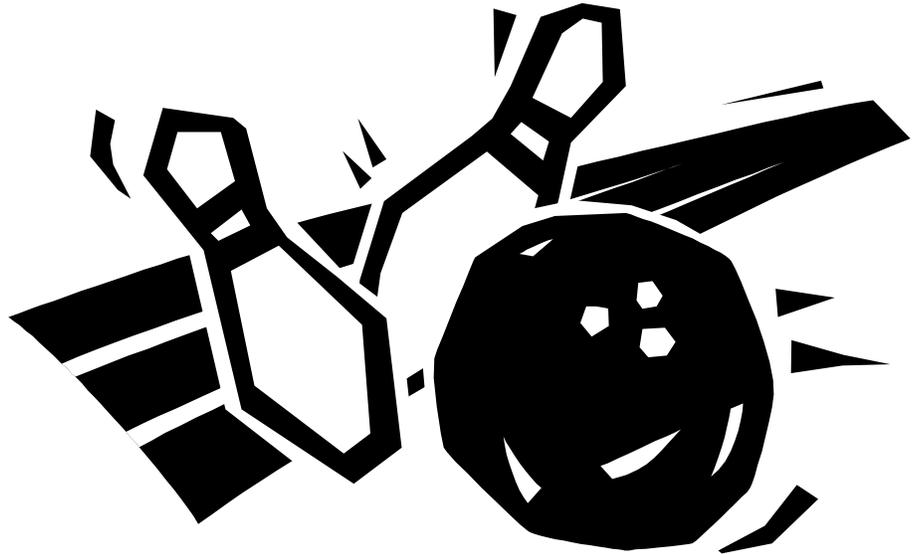
Our Tribal event this month was hosted by Big Squirrel & Little Squirrel, a good time was had by all. We enjoyed pizza and the opportunity to all get together. The boys crafted necklaces with strands of leather and creative combinations of various beads, then moved on to another Tribal tradition.....Foosball. We are all looking forward to next month's Nation Event, Cosmic Bowling.

Laughing Crow, Jumping Mustang & Wild Boar



Guides & Princesses Cosmic Bowling Saturday, Feb. 5

**North Valley Family
YMCA at Porter Ranch**



Saturday, February 7

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location:

**Matador Bowl
9118 Balboa Blvd, Northridge**

Cost:

**\$15 per child - Source Code: 550.FL.0806.49
\$5.00 per non-bowler - Source Code: 550.FL.0806.50
Space is limited. Children's fee includes bowling and a patch.
Non-bowlers fee is patch only.
This is a father/child event only.
Everyone must pre-register by Feb. 2**



**North Valley Family YMCA at
Porter Ranch**

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

North Valley Family YMCA Indian Guides & Princesses

Camp Fox March 11 - 13

Hosted by the Shawnee & Seminole Tribes

Cost:

\$117 per person

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.51

Full payment is due by Friday, March 4th

Fee includes boat ride, meals, patches and activities at camp.

Space is limited, sign up soon.

Please fill out the attached registration form and mail it to the YMCA.

This is a father/child event only.

More information regarding the depart time and what to bring will be mailed to all who have registered.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Hiking up Bible Peak, fishing, exploring, boating, campfire, nature hunt, games and much more. We welcome any suggestions for more activities.



**North Valley Family YMCA
CAMP FOX
Catalina Island
Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 13**

Registration Form

Father: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Child: _____ Tribe: _____

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.51 Number of people _____ X \$117.00 = _____

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 4th. 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 _____