



Hello Guides & Princesses:

Seasons Greetings to you all.

We have had great turnouts at all the Nation events this year. We had record numbers at Skate Night, The Nation Picnic, a record 232 people at The Pilgrim Feast and now more than 250 at the 'wet' Granada Hills Parade. Greg Hamlin did another fine job by providing the two floats for the parade that were previewed at the feast.

The Pilgrim Feast had 232 excited members enjoying the usual fine fare of ribs and chicken organized by the Chumash Tribe with the Blackfeet helping out with the set up of the hall at Our Lady of Lourdes. Jim Jenkins never fails to produce a great event patch design for this event!

Thanks go out to all of you who participated in the first ever raffle during dinner. Up for grabs were a 27" TV and a CD player that had been donated to the YMCA. I am pleased to inform you that the the total amount raised was a whopping \$730!!! The 'Y' will put the money to good use, thank you again.

During the campfire we welcomed forty some new members to the Ga Sioux Nation. I think this was the first time they were introduced to 'Super Lizard' and the rest Josie and Terry's repertoire! It is always a lot of fun to watch the kids take part in those songs!!! Thanks to Mitch Tucker and Tim Smith for helping extinguish the camp fire at the end of the evening.

Josie left the event with a car full of canned food goods to be donated to Blythe Street Families / Casa Esperanza, an organization that helps out low income families. Again to your generosity we can make a difference to some folks less fortunate than ourselves.

Camp Whittle is next up on our agenda on January 2 - 4. Judging by the recent low temperatures we may be in for some snow up at camp although to date there has only been a small amount. Last year was great fun as we had the most snow that I remember in the last seven years.

The camp BBQ's will be available for use to anyone arriving early on Friday night and wishing to cook their own dinner. Camp will

provide hot chocolate and cookies only on Friday evening.

As I am writing this message, I see from the news on TV that Sadaam Hussein has been captured!!! What better holiday gift could we all ask for than to feel a little safer as we go about our daily lives! Our thoughts and prayers should go out to our troops overseas at this special time of year as they strive to make our world a safer place.

It was good to see Joe Orr, a past Nation Chief at a recent 'Y' dinner being awarded with 'The Volunteer of the Year Award' for all his time and dedication to the 'Y'. Joe has been in our program for many years both as an adult and a child with his own father. Congratulations Joe!

I will have more information for you all on The Annual Support Campaign which will be kicking off shortly in the next edition of Smoke Signals. It would be nice for each tribe to find a way to participate in some way this year.

Until Camp Whittle I would like to wish everyone Happy Holiday season,
See you all soon,

Brian Williams
Nation Chief

NATION CALENDAR
2003 - 2004

Camp Whittle	Jan. 2 - 4
Cosmic Bowling	Feb. 7
Camp Fox	March 12 - 14
Nation Event	April
Sports Event	May
Spring Family Campout	June 4 - 6

TRIBAL NEWS

APACHE TRIBE

The Apache were very excited to see so many people at the Pilgrim Feast and we want to say thank you to the Chumash and Blackfeet tribes for putting on such a great event and for the delicious food. Our new members who were inducted during the ceremony included D.J., Ryan, Jacob, Harrison, Gabriel and Anthony. Congratulations and welcome to the program. We look forward to future events with you and building some lifelong friendships.

We also had a great time walking in the Granada Hills Parade. The little bit of rain did not stop us from having fun, waving and wishing everyone a "happy holiday" and dispensing a little Silly String on each other and the crowd. Walking and spraying Silly String were Will, Corey, Matthew, Evan, Zachary, D.J., Ryan, Jacob, Harrison and Gabriel.

While it is a busy time of the year full of holiday parties and decorating, the Apache are getting ready for Camp Whittle. Josie has promised plenty of snow so we look forward to seeing you all up on the sled slopes.

Happy holidays and a blessed New Year.

Chief Hungry Bear



SEMINOLE TRIBE

Well the holiday season is already upon us... It is amazing it is already almost 2004! The Seminoles have a lot of new faces this year and everyone is excited about our upcoming trip to Camp Whittle. Our only returning members, Jumping Wolf (Stefan George) and Fire Wolf (Bobby Alderman) look forward to sharing their experience and knowledge of the campgrounds to all. It looks like we may have quite a bit of snow this year so the Nation Games and the weekend should be quite fun.

This year, we had a large group of Seminoles turn out for the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. Participating in the Parade this year, along with our two returning members Jumping Wolf and Fire Wolf, were Little Drop (Tyler Steinmetz and his father Jeff), Jumping Trout (Garrett Enderle and his father Ralph), Star Fox (Tanner Smith and his father Forrest), Fire Breathing Dragon (Luke Mayberry and his father Joel), Little Turtle (Daniel Fenstermacher and his father Carl), and Dark Owl (Aidan Gross and his father Dan). We went through a lot of Silly String and all of us had a really great time. However, we surely missed our theme song blaring along Chatsworth Avenue!

See you all in Big Bear. The tribe has spoken!

Screaming Wolf (Gene George)
Chief, Seminoles 2003-2004

CHUMASH TRIBE

Happy Holidays from the Chumash!

We would like to thank everyone for the great turnout at the Pilgrim Feast. Especially since Friday nights are not easy for many of us. Rosie's did a great job on the food and there was plenty of it! Special recognition needs to go to Doug Aberle for his efforts in putting together the food the last few years. He has done a great job!

The Chumash are looking forward to Camp Whittle!!! We have been consulting the Chumash elders on how to assure the most snow possible. See Scott Cohen for more details....

Lastly, on behalf of the Chumash tribe we congratulate the YMCA on the award for "Best" float in the Granada Hills Holiday Parade. It must be the silly string that puts us over the top!

Neil Bernstein

CHINOOK TRIBE

Happy Holidays to all our fellow Guides and Princesses! The season has certainly been busy for the Chinook tribe. On November 19th we had our monthly meeting at the home of Black Feather and Little Dancing Bear (Brian and Makenzie Ambrose). A great time was had by all as we worked on our wooden turkey necklace craft, which put everyone in the Thanksgiving mood. Thanks to Brian and Makenzie for hosting a great meeting.

Two days later a good portion of our tribe attended the Pilgrim Feast and Induction Ceremony. What a great campfire! Whenever I'm on campus at Our Lady of Lourdes, I can still hear the echo of the Four Winds: "I will listen while others speak. . . I will listen while others speak. . ."

So here's a Christmas Parade riddle: How much Silly String does it take to cover a chief's vest?
Answer: As much as one side of the float can spray on him from Petit to Balboa!

We have one meeting left this year, and then it's on to Camp Whittle. Have a great Holiday season, everybody. See you in the snow. Chinook rocks!

MOHAVE TRIBE

Members of the Mohave Tribe (Circle?) were out in force at the Granada Hills Holiday Parade, braving 60-degree weather and intermittent sprinkles. But have no fear you can see from the photo this is a hardy bunch. In a related story, the makers of Silly String recently reported a sharp rise in second quarter sales, when asked to comment the company's C.E.O. had but one word "MOHAVE". And where did all that Silly String go... just ask the Mohave Mommies - many of whom are still removing bits from hair and clothing.

Looking forward, Mohave members are eager to hit the snow at Camp Whittle along with the rest of the Nation, first thing in '04. After that camp Fox. And before you know it, it will be time for the Holiday Parade again - Gee, we better get that Silly String order in.



North Valley Family YMCA
Guides & Princesses

Camp Whittle

January 2 to January 4, 2004

Cost: \$75 per person

Source Code: 550.FL.0806.31



INCLUDES: The fee includes all camp activities, patch, Nation t-shirt, lodging and meals (Breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday).

DEADLINE: Please register by December 26.

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 as possible.

Hot chocolate and cookies will be available for those arriving on Friday night in the dining hall. The barbeque, plates and utensils will be available for your use on Friday night; dinner is supplied by the tribe.

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)

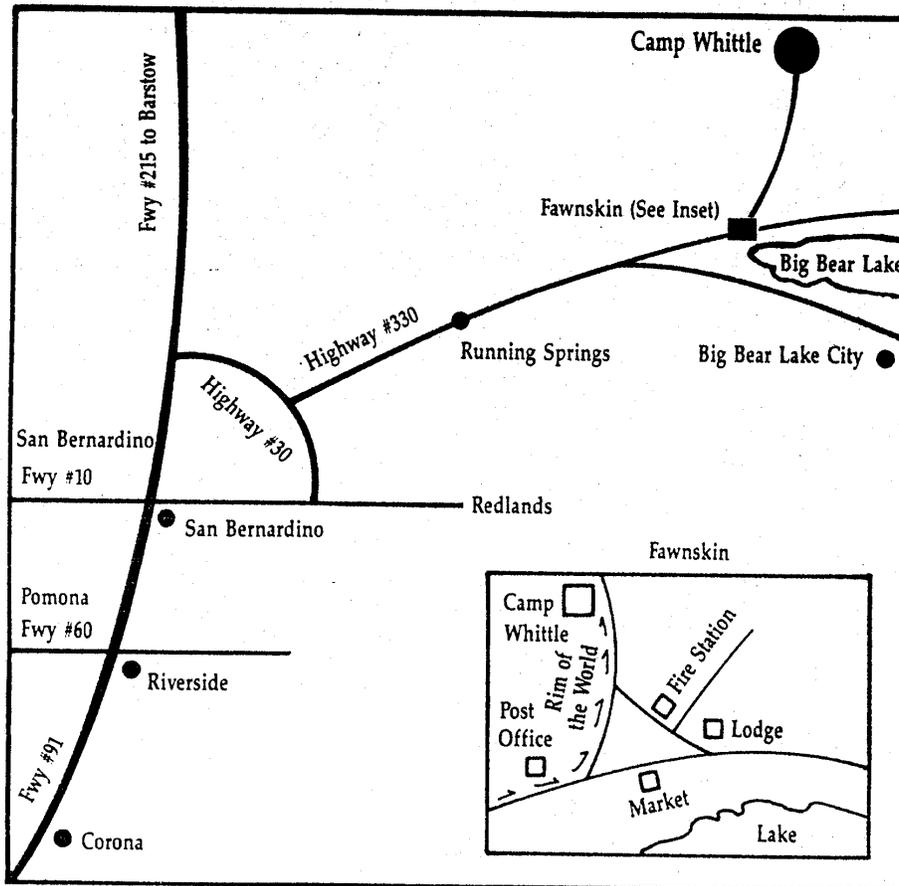
Snow toys (inner tubes, sleds, disca)

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.





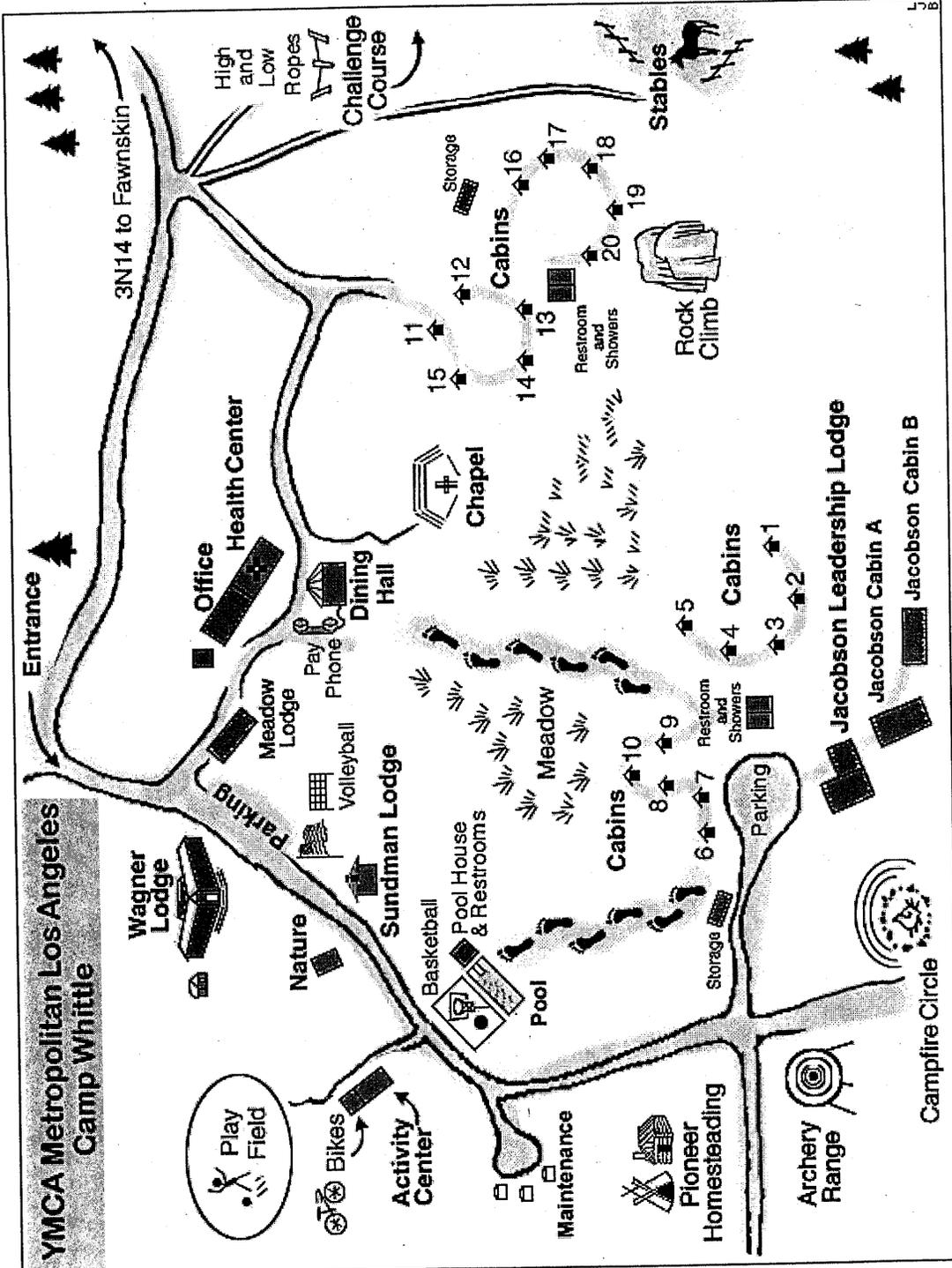
CAMP HAROLD F. WHITTLE:

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



YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
Camping Services



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

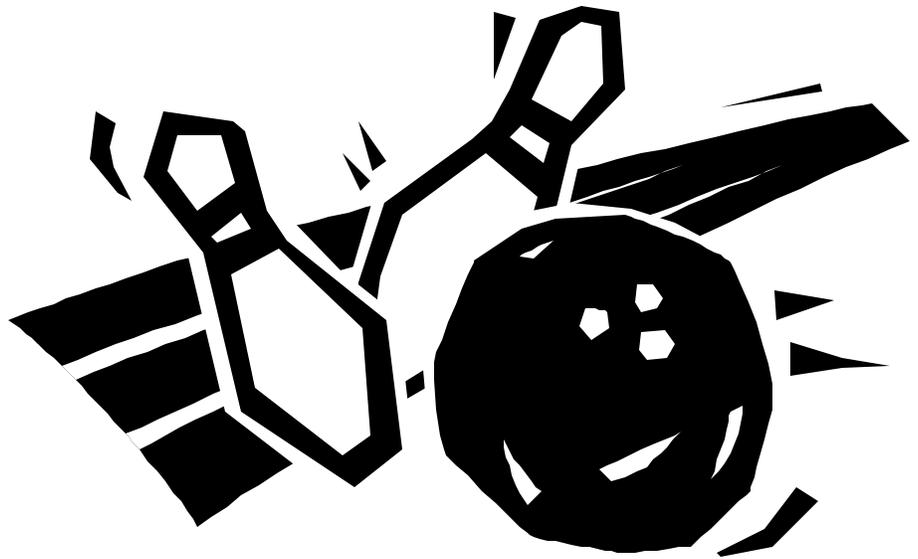
1. Fill your radiator with anti-freeze, check your tires, hoses, belts, exhaust system and brakes before leaving home.
2. Carry a windshield ice-scraper, first aid kit, functional jack, tools, extra water, shovel, flashlight and blankets.
3. Be sure to have properly sized tire chains and know how to 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.

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

\$3.00 per dad

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

Everyone must pre-register by Feb. 4