



The Big Forest Nation

The M. E. Lyons YMCA

April 2003 - Smoke Signal

Now that winter is officially over it's time to spring into action as we start the outdoor Nation events! From the official desk of the Talleykeeper and with the authority of Chief Gray Rabbit himself and all nation chiefs this newsletter provides you with the most up-to-date Nation information available. Let's see what's on the horizon.

Here's a riddle for you. What do you get when you take a huge pile of plastic eggs, pounds and pounds of candy, a lot of water and over a 100 members of the Big Forest Nation assembled on the grounds of the YMCA? A bunch of wet and crazy kids? Yes, but it's also the recipe for the Egg Hunt and Pool Party event! See the enclosed flyer for more information and come out ready for hunting and gaming. It's sure to be a good time.

No Smoke Signal would be complete, though, without a **WHOO!** for the great tribes that have gotten us this far since the last Smoke Signal. Thanks go to the following tribes for keeping our program excellent: Nez Perce (Duck's Hockey), Cherokee (Omnimax), Shawnee (skating), and Miami (bowling). Many tribes, individuals, and the High Council (the Chief and Medicine Man included) made the Pinewood Derby a great collaboration. Enclosed are the official results of the Derby. Congratulations to all who took the time to create a car for succeeding in making this a fun, creative and worthwhile event.

And as mentioned before, come on outdoors and join the Nation for all the remaining events. Highly recommended by yours truly. More specifics are forthcoming, but mark your calendars now.

Egg Hunt/Pool Party	April 12 th 2:00 to 4:00 PM	M.E. Lyons YMCA
Campout	May 16 th -18 th	Camp Campbell Gard
Raft Trip	June 7 th	Morgan's Canoe Livery

A little important business: Our new YMCA director, Rick Madison, attended the recent longhouse meeting and is very supportive of our program. As a matter of fact he is currently driving the "2003 we

build character campaign" to raise money for programs at the YMCA including ones like ours. This campaign benefits folks in our area that would otherwise not be able to participate in YMCA programs. For instance, if a family could not send their child to the Y-Guide/Princess Camp-out it could make sure that a great weekend of father/child experiences would happen. As Rick has said there are scholarships available and the Y will turn no one away. But the campaign needs help from you. Please see your tribal chief for more details and a flyer at your next meeting. Your help is greatly appreciated.

As a suggestion you might also make note of the Campout at your next tribe meeting. Ready the tribal property and make sure your tribal chief has his peace pipe and your tribe has a skit or song for the Saturday evening council fire (you wouldn't want to disappoint the Chief now, would you?). This event is the highlight of our annual program, and provides memories for Dad and child that promise to last a lifetime. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Don't forget to update those vests with the event patches, too. If you need a vest you can order them through the Tandy Leather website at www.tandy-leather.com. Click on "leathercraft kits", then "vest kits".

As you may know the Camp-out includes the official graduation for our red feather Princesses and Guides (3rd graders). For those graduating children, there is an associated program - Trailblazers. This program targeted at 4th to 7th graders is again a volunteer driven program appealing to older kid's events. Feel free to call Mike Persicano (232-0282) or Jeff Lefkovitz (232-1219) for more info.

In case you need to contact anyone the following are the members of the 2002-2003 High Council.

Chief	Jack Ridge	ridge.jj@pg.com	272-0426
Medicine Man	Chris Brueckner	cbrueckner@cinci.rr.com	624-0046
Asst. Chief	Tony Finamore	abfinamore@auditor.state.oh.us	753-0132
Wampum Bearer	Bill Rehl	BLrehl3@cs.com	232-3512
Firestarter	Bill Sprunk	wsprunk@fuse.net	231-4840
Tallykeeper	Jim Farmer	jimfarmer@cinci.rr.com	231-7392

Please feel free to refer questions to any one of us listed above. And don't forget our website located at www.bigforest.org as it includes contact, up-to-date event information and other good stuff.

May the Great Spirit be with you until we meet again!
Jim Farmer - Nation Talleykeeper