



The Big Forest Nation

The M.E. Lyons YMCA

January 2004 - Smoke Signal

Happy New Year to all members of the Nation! I hope the Month of the Great Spirit Moon finds you well and warm. This month is also known to some tribes as the Moon of the Strong Cold or to the Sioux as the month of Frost in the Teepee. In any event this month has the Family Skate event to look forward to indoors. More on that later.

Looking back on the Trailblazer front since I last wrote you, the Corn Maize event, Duck's Hockey event, and Christmas Party have taken place. Three neat and different events providing a good excuse to get out and do something fun together, even if the weather was a little inclement. For example, one of the highlights of the Christmas Party was the gift exchange. It turned into a game in itself as a lot of giving and taking (or should I say robbing) took place, all in fun of course.

As for the Y-Guides, and Y-Princesses program the Camp-In, Ducks Hockey and Native American storytelling with Fred Shaw at the Festival of Lights is where you would have found these members of the Nation.

As always the Camp-In was action packed with lots of activities, games, swimming, movies, etc. Although the moment is gone, for posterity's sake and for those who were asking the official winning tribe for the teepee building contest was... the Walla Walla's. Second were the Cheyenne with the Shawnee third. Congratulations to everyone!

In November the hockey game was an exciting place to be as the warriors of the frozen pond played a good game. You wouldn't think Duck's would be that good! And finally, the last event of 2003 was fun for the whole family. Neeake (Fred Shaw) told Native American stories while we were visited by various large and small creatures that live at the zoo.

As previously mentioned the Family Skate event is this month. This event is open to Trailblazers, Braves, Princesses, Guides, squaws, papooses or anyone else in your family. Come on out January 25th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and show off those roller skating moves you used to do, if you can still (I never did have them myself). See the enclosed flyer for more information. As a side note if you ordered a

vest and haven't picked them up yet, check with Brett Luddeke at the Family Skate as he will have them there.

Need to get a hold of someone in the program to answer your questions? Look below to find the appropriate contact for the program you are in.

Y-Princess/Guide program

Chief	Chris Brueckner	cbrueckner@cinci.rr.com	624-0046
Medicine Man	Tony Finamore	abfinamore@auditor.state.oh.us	753-0132
Asst. Chief	Brett Luddeke	jenkinsequip@earthlink.net	232-4848
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

Trailblazer program

Mike Persicano (girls)	cugcoffee@cinci.rr.com	232-0282
Chuck Orkiszewski (boys)	cs.orkiszewski@worldnet.att.net	474-2902

You can also contact the Y at 474-1400 and speak with Brian Rawlings, who is the official YMCA contact or anyone else there.

Remember the Big Forest Nation website? It is located at www.bigforest.org. It includes contact and up-to-date event information for all nation events planned for the balance of the year. It also includes a place for your tribe to put their own information in, such as pictures or member's names (avoid real names or other private information).

The Nation is off and running once again and hot on the trail to some great events. Hope to see you at the Family Skate this month. Many thanks as always to the chiefs, High Council, individuals, and tribes that have put these activities together.

Peace and prosperity to you in the New Year,

Jim Farmer

Nation Talleykeeper