



The Big Forest Nation

The M.E. Lyons YMCA

April 2004 - Smoke Signal

Brother and sister tribes of the Big Forest Nation it is time once again for another report from the office of the Talleykeeper. Life is good as we find ourselves nearly winding up the program year. Undoubtedly, like my kids and I, you have had a fun and rewarding experience.

Among the more recent things we've done as Guides and Princesses includes the Bowling event in February where we had a nice turnout. When you add all you can eat snacks and tell Dad he has to bowl between his legs for a frame or two, well, you just can't beat that for entertainment. High "5's" were flying all around as the youngsters racked up the points, sometimes even without using the bumpers. Thanks go to the Miami tribe for running this event!

Meanwhile on the Trailblazer front we kept an eye to the sky as a visit to the Drake Planetarium at Norwood High School taught us about our Universe. By understanding the nighttime sky we learned how it has been used for anything from helping slaves escape to space exploration to those rare opportunities to view planets with the naked eye; a very educational event.

Later in the month was also a learning experience with the Trailblazers also working on merit badges and at the same time learning about proper use of the American flag, knot tying, and how to use a telescope. Thanks to the Buckeye and Appalachian tribal chiefs, Chuck Orkiszewski and Mike Persicano for organizing and communicating these events!

As you know the Pinewood Derby occurred in March for the entire Nation. Once again as always it was a phenomenal display of both speed and artistry. What was a simple pine block became a memento of time spent together working on a cool car that had its day of fame on the pinewood track. Congratulations to everyone. As participants you are all winners. See the attached for more details on the official results. Thanks to all involved.

As for January the Great White snow of Mother Nature forced us to reschedule the Skating Event to April. Come on out this month and have a great time. See the enclosed flyer for more details. And remember this is a family event so bring Mom and the rest of the kids for fun and games. Hope to see you there!

Coming up on the horizon is also the Camp-out at Camp Campbell Gard. Plan to meet up with your tribe there for at least a day and a half of fun activities too numerous to mention. And as always don't forget to bring your tribal property for display and review. A skit or song for our Mighty Chief, Blue Arrow, and the rest of the Nation would be appropriate as well. You know how all our Chiefs of ole liked to be entertained while seated at the Saturday evening Council Fire. Well, our current chief is no exception. More details on this event in next month's flyer.

If you need to get a hold of someone in the program to answer your questions here are some great folks that can help.

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 check the Big Forest Nation website located at www.bigforest.org, which provides contact and up-to-date event information.

May the Eye of the Great Spirit look over you until we meet again,

Jim Farmer - Nation Talleykeeper