



The Big Forest Nation

The M.E. Lyons YMCA

October 2004 - Smoke Signal

Greetings to all members of the Big Forest Nation! Welcome back to the 2004-2005 Y-Princess, Y-Guide, and Trailblazer program! We would especially like to welcome the new members of the Nation. Already the High Council and tribal chiefs have done much preparation to ensure a fun and exciting year. As a matter of fact things have already started taking shape.

Once again this year the Trailblazers have struck first in September and opened their program with the second annual Camp-Out at Lake Waynoka. It was a great time as each Trail Crew worked towards their outdoor cooking and knot tying badges as their Trail Guides (Dads) witnessed their accomplishments. One highlight of the trip was on Saturday afternoon as the kids were pulled around the lake on a Sea Doo tube and giant hotdog. Many thanks to Gary Hardoerfer for hosting at his lakeside cabin! On October 23rd the Trailblazers will be going to the Turpin Farms Corn Maize to test their navigational skills and find their way out. Even without a map it's sure to be a great fall-like event full of fun and fresh air.

As for the Y-Guides, Princesses and Braves (Dads) of the Nation the much awaited Camp-In at the YMCA will commence as their first Nation event on October 16th! Be sure to dust off those torches and prepare for the council fire ceremony. And as usual after the ceremony there will be fun and games as well as staying up a little past bedtime to see a movie as we "make camp" for bed. It's sure to be a great time for the younger members of the nation, especially since Dad will be there. For more details and the rest of the monthly events including Trailblazers please see the attachment of the preliminary schedule.

And to get things started off right at the tribe level the chiefs will be scheduling tribe meetings as well. If your tribe hasn't had a chance to meet and you're a new member, be sure to find your tribe at the rear of the M.E. Lyons YMCA parking for the start of the Camp-In. Look for your tribal torch. Feel free to call your tribal chief, the Nation Chief, or Medicine Man below if you need more information.

Just for the record here are the official High Council members for the 2004-2005 program year. Otherwise known as a great bunch of Dads, like the tribal chiefs, who volunteer their time to make this all happen. By the way if anyone has questions feel free to contact your tribal chief as he goes to longhouse meetings and is also aware of most things that are going on. If you have any questions on what tribe you're in, how to get books, patches or other items feel free to give any one of us a call.

Y-Princess/Guide program

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Chief | Tony Finamore | abfinamore@auditor.state.oh.us | 753-0132 |
| Medicine Man | Brett Luddeke | jenkinsequip@earthlink.net | 232-4848 |
| Asst. Chief | Fred Beyette | beyette@ececs.uc.edu | 474-0060 |
| Wampum Bearer | Bill Rehl/ Scott Miller | BLrehl3@cs.com | 232-3512 |
| Firestarter | Bill Sprunk/ Eric Bishop | | |
| Tallykeeper | Jim Farmer | jimfarmer@cinci.rr.com | 231-7392 |

Trailblazer program

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|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| Don Robinson (girls) | don.robinson@ky.gov | 752-6430 |
| Vacant (Need Volunteer (boys)) | | |

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

By the way if you know a child grade K through 6 that isn't in the Y-Adventure or Trailblazer program who would like to attend regular events with Dad encourage them to join your or another tribe. Although normal registration has ended we still have room to add new members. Sheila Hinton can assist with late registration. Speaking of registering please make sure you are signed up and paid up as we are a mainly a volunteer group on a budget. Thanks!

In addition to the new Nation shirt ordered at registration, leather vests are in again this year for the Y-Adventurers. Good for displaying patches you'll find them sported by many members of our nation both young and old. To make things easy for you and your wallet why not take advantage of a significant price break over the regular Tandy Leather vest price? All you need to do is fill out the

vest ordering form with payment and turn it into the M.E. Lyons YMCA if you are interested. Contact our Assistant Chief, Fred Beyette, for any questions. If you do happen to miss this one time mass order or decide later that you want a vest one can be ordered online at www.tandyleather.com. Click on the link to "Leathercraft kits" and then "Vest kits".

Also for your information don't forget our website located at www.bigforest.org as 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).

As you can tell there are lots of great things going on this year. Hope to see you at the Camp-In or Corn Maize and until then take care.

Jim Farmer

Nation Talleykeeper