



The Big Forest Nation

The M.E. Lyons YMCA

April 2005 - 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 daughter and I, you have had a fun and rewarding experience.

Already this year the Guides and Princesses (and Braves) have done Skating, Bowling, Pinewood Derby, and have the Red's game to look forward to this month. As for the Trailblazers they've been to Mammoth Cave, visited the Corvette museum, Skated, toured the Toyota plant, participated in the Pinewood Derby, and have the Red's game going on during this month.

Thanks go to many tribes for their contribution by sponsoring these events. Recognition goes to the Shawnee and Chippewa tribes for running the Skating event. It's a neat event since not everyone goes skating regularly, especially the Braves. The games and prizes are a nice plus as well.

Thanks to the Miami and Apache tribes for sponsoring the Bowling event. The kids always have a good time. Some of them seemed to particularly like shooting the ball down the alley, hitting the bumpers multiple times and trying to put it in the pocket. Reminds me a little of a hard pool shot. And we had all the snacks we could eat!

The Buckeye and Appalachian tribes were responsible for the spelunking at Mammoth Cave with the optional Corvette museum visit and also the Toyota tour. I hear it was good for the older members of the Nation as they enjoyed getting out on their adventures with Dad. In the tradition of having a community service event the Trailblazers will be painting fire hydrants again this year for the Anderson Township Fire Department. What a neat example of volunteerism!

As you probably know the Pinewood Derby was a combined effort by many people to make it come off well. And it did. Once again 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.

Well that summarizes the past events, but there is still a lot coming up. How about those Red's? This month those who signed up are going to the ballpark courtesy of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes. Have those gloves ready in homerun alley.

And in June is the famous Raft trip. I can almost hear the promotional shouts of the Thunderbirds and Mohicans now at the upcoming Camp Out dinner table (*What's going on? Raft Trip! When is it? June 4th!*).

Speaking of the Camp Out, it is coming up on May 13th through 15th at Camp Campbell Gard. Plan to meet up as early as Friday evening with your tribe and stay for up to 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, Running Bull, and the rest of the Nation would be appropriate as well. I happen to know that our mighty and esteemed Chief likes to be entertained while seated at the Saturday evening Council Fire. More details on this event in the attached flyer.

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

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

Don Robinson	don.robinson@ky.gov	752-6430
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You can also contact the Y at 474-1400 and speak with Sheila Hinton, who is the official YMCA contact or check the Big Forest Nation website located at www.bigforest.org, for more information.

One final note. As we come to the end of another successful year we would like to continue our tradition of excellence next program year. In order to do this we need volunteers like you. If you or someone you know would have any interest in being an Assistant Chief or helping by heading up one of the Trailblazer's tribes please let us know. It wouldn't take much and would go a long way to helping run

the Nation. There are other ways to help as well. Contact the Chief or a High Council member for more details.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and participate in a very worthwhile program. Worthwhile because both you and your child are in it!

Take care,

Jim Farmer

Nation Talleykeeper