



Program Guide

(short version)

www.bearcreekfederation.com

www.yo-he-wah.com

www.wichitanation.com

www.tatankanation.org

Introduction

Thank you for joining the Bear Creek Federation Indian Guides and Indian Princess programs. We are pleased that you have joined one of the most active Father-Son, Father-Daughter Programs in North Texas. If you ask around, we bet you'll find a Father, Son, or Daughter who was part of this program and who have very special memories of their time spent together.

Upon registration, you will be assigned to a tribe with whom you will meet with on a monthly basis. In addition, between now and next June, we will hold a number of Nation events. Whether it's camping, skating, hiking, participating in making crafts, you will have the opportunity to build a special relationship between Father and Son or Father and Daughter that will create wonderful lifelong memories.

The important thing is that Fathers commit themselves to spend time with their sons or daughters and be willing to give back of their time and talents to the Nation from time to time. Together, we make this a strong and lasting program for many, many more years to come!

The following is a short guide explaining some of the basic information about how our program is organized. A more detailed participants manual is available on our website at your nations website:

www.yo-he-wah.com

www.wichitanation.com

www.tatankanation.org

Best regards,

Bear Creek Federation


TRIBE

The tribe is the basic organization of our Guides and Princess program. Fathers and Sons or Fathers and daughters of the tribe meet together usually once monthly at a member's home, on a rotating basis; to work on crafts, play games together, earn feather awards, and plan for the four Nation campouts and other events.

A tribe has usually two key officers:

CHIEF *Leader of the tribe who conducts the tribal meetings and represents the tribe at the Nation Longhouse meetings.*

**ASSISTANT
CHIEF** *Aide and substitute for the Chief*

Each tribe may also elect to have additional officers such as a Tribal Talley Keeper, Tribal Medicine Man, Tribal Wampum Bearer, etc. While all part of the Yo-He-Wah Nation, each tribe has their own schedules, rituals, traditions. 

SOME BASIC ACTIVITIES

1. **OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY** - executed with solemnity and sensitivity.
2. **DISCUSSION PERIODS** - to help girls think about making the slogan, the aims, or the purpose of the Indian Princess program a part of some situation they face every day.
3. **SCOUTING REPORTS** - designed to increase the observation skills of each brave or princess on nature (animals, birds, insects, trees, flowers) and to give confidence in speaking to a group. Ask each child to report at the meeting.
4. **QUIZ CONTESTS** - on Indian Princess aims, slogan, Native American history, or other subjects interesting to your people.
5. **HANDICRAFT EXHIBITS, NATURE STUDY, HOBBIES, BRIEF EDUCATIONAL TALKS BY THE PARENTS** - to open new horizons of information for braves/princesses and fathers/mothers.
6. **TALKS BY THE CHIEF** - a story of Native American life of special interest to the tribe, or a story with a moral.
7. **SINGING** - for fellowship and sharing of talent.
8. **GAMES** - for fun and for teaching human relationships.
9. **PRAYERS AND POEMS** - to identify the importance of spiritual resources.
10. **REFRESHMENTS** - a treat for children and parents alike that affords relaxed social interchange and opportunities to develop friendships

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST

BRAVES/PRINCESSES

For the tribal meetings the host parent and child have four primary responsibilities:

- To prepare and deliver the invitation to each family member (optional).
- To plan for the recreation at the meeting.
- To provide the refreshments.
- To check with the Chief about any special needs or arrangements that may be required

OPENING CEREMONY

The purpose of the Indian Guides and Indian Princess program is to foster the understanding and companionship between father and son or father and daughter.

OR

We, father and son or father and daughter, through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this tribe, to our community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Spirit.

The Guides slogan is “Pals Forever”

The Princess slogan is "Friends Always".

The Aims are:

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart.
2. To be “Pals Forever” with my father (son) or "Friends Always” with my father (daughter).
3. To love the sacred circle of my family.
4. To listen while others speak.
5. To love my neighbor as myself.
6. To seek and preserve the beauty of the Great Spirit's work in forest, field, and stream.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Spoken

(Standing in a circle)

And now,

(Index finger pointing to the ground)



May the Great Spirit,

(All fingers circling up, imitating smoke)



Of all good Spirits,

(Arms outstretched)



Be with,

(Arms coming in close)



You,

(Index finger pointing across circle)



Now,

(All fingers pointing down)



And forever more!

(Action of shooting bow & arrow)



PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS FOR TRIBAL MEETINGS

In order to provide maximum opportunity for all members of every tribe to share in each tribal meeting, a program rotation guide will be helpful to many Indian Princess groups. With the help of the Chief, who is usually responsible for ensuring sound preparation of the tribal meetings, each parent and child may sign up in advance for a special tribal program assignment. These tasks are rotated at each meeting. Planning may be done three to six months in advance.

TRIBAL POSITIONS

As the end of each program year approaches, tribal positions should be elected for the following year. Generally by April, the Nation will request the name of the new Chief and Assistant Chief. Tribal positions should be rotated yearly. No one should serve in the same position two years in a row.

TRIBAL DUES (WAMPUM)

Many tribes collect tribal Wampum at each meeting. Children should earn dues by doing projects around the home. Dues (set by each tribe) usually range from 50¢ to \$1.00 per child. The collection of the dues calls for children to report how they earned the money. This assists them in learning the value of money, encourages them to do things for others, and challenges parents to spend more constructive time with their children. The dues make up the Tribal Wampum and are used by the tribe for projects, activities, or outings.

(Additionally, many tribes collect a one-time payment at the beginning of the year to cover large expenses such as camp out costs and other tribal expenses).


SCOUT REPORTS

Scout reports by the children are an important agenda item for the tribal meeting. There is real merit in having them stand with the Talking Stick and give reports of something they did or saw since the last meeting. If the reports concern something they did with their parents it is even better. Some prompting and encouragement may be necessary at first, but parents can talk the matter over with their children prior to the meeting. Parents can help their children to watch for subjects from nature, family fun, or Native American culture. Each parent too, has a chance to report on his or her own vocation as well as a shared experience with the child. The parent should share the report with a young or shy child until that child is willing to take the lead.

CHIEF'S TALKS

Immediately following the Opening Ceremony, the Chief says a few words to the tribe, giving Native American information, telling of a great Native American or tribe, reminding the tribe of its ideals, or speaking of the Great Spirit or wonders of nature. This talk should not be long. If they get restless, bring the talk to a close.

TRIBAL PROPERTY

Tribes can make "Tribal Property" at meetings or individual members can make items for the tribe. Tribal property should include a totem pole (for campouts), drum and drum stick, talking stick and wampum bag. 

YOUR TRIBE INFORMATION

Name of Tribe:

Indian Name – Son(s) / Daughter(s):

Indian Name – Father:

Name of Tribe's Chief:

Indian Name – Tribe's Chief:

Home Phone Number – Tribe's Chief:

Day / Time of Tribe's Monthly Meeting:

Important Dates:

Nation Events

The Nation (comprised of all the tribes) conducts many events throughout the year. The most important are the four campouts (Opening, Fall, Spring, and Family). While you tribe will fill you in on the details of all of the Nation events, a typical campout involves the following:

1. Friday Night (no planned Nation activities)
2. Saturday
 - a. Nation games and special activities (afternoon)
 - b. Cooking/Property Contests
 - c. Bon Fire Ceremony (evening)
3. Sunday
 - a. Morning chapel service and ceremonies
 - b. Camp site clean-up

Many tribes plan and conduct other activities during campouts such as hiking, swimming, games crafts and so forth (some tribe even host their own tribe-only campouts). Additionally, the Nation may sponsor special events at campouts, such as horse riding, rock climbing etc. Additionally, special entertainment may be provided at the bon fires, such as indian dancers and professional story tellers or singers.

Other Nation events will be set out in the Nation calendar and include skating parties, football and baseball games, fishing outings, a rodeo and many, many other opportunities for Fathers and Daughters to spend time together!

The latest information about the Nation's activities can usually be found on your nations website: www.yo-he-wah.com , www.wichitanation.com , www.tatankanation.org, or from the tribal Chief or Assistant Chief.