



Guides And Princesses

Member Booklet

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WHAT IS THE GUIDES AND PRINCESS PROGRAM?

A Brief History

The Indian Guide program for fathers and sons was developed in a deliberate way to support the father's vital family role as a teacher, counselor, and friend to his son. The program was created more than three-quarters of a century ago by Harold S. Keltner, director of the St. Louis YMCA, as an integral part of association work. While Keltner was on a hunting trip in Canada one evening, Joe Friday, a friend and American Indian, told him as they sat around a blazing campfire: "The Indian father raises his son. He teaches his son to hunt, track, fish, walk softly and silently in the forest, know the meaning and purpose of life and all he must know." These comments struck home, and Harold Keltner arranged for Joe Friday to work with him at the St. Louis YMCA.

Joe Friday spoke before groups of boys and dads in St. Louis, and Keltner discovered that fathers, as well as boys, had a keen interest in the traditions and ways of American Indians. At the same time, being greatly influenced by the work of Ernest Thompson Seton, a great lover of the outdoors, Keltner conceived the idea of a father and son program based upon the strong qualities of American Indian culture and life—dignity, patience, endurance, spirituality, feeling for the earth, and concern for the family. In 1926, Keltner organized the first Indian Guide "Tribe" in Richmond Heights, Missouri, with the help of Joe Friday and William H. Hefelfinger. Harold Keltner developed a program for boys and girls that now involves about 125,000 children and adults annually nationwide.

Today, in the Greater Downers Grove, Illinois area, the Yomechas Federation carries on the traditional parent-child program originally conceived by Keltner and Friday, carefully following the original theme based in American Indian culture and family. Our 1500+ members enjoy the many opportunities for parents and children to grow together in a positive, growth orientated group environment.

The following page has been adopted as the organizations Purpose, Aims, Motto and Pledge:



Purpose

The purpose of Guides and Princesses is to foster understanding and companionship between parent and child.

Aims

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart
2. To be friends forever with my dad/mom/son/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 respect the traditions and beliefs of all people
7. To seek and preserve the beauty of Our Creator's work in forest, field, and stream

Program Motto

"Friends Forever"

The slogan, "Friends Forever," does not mean that parent and child relate to each other as equals, such as two children are friends. Rather, it means that parent and child have a close, enduring relationship in which there is communication, understanding, and companionship. The Guide and Princess Program encourages such a relationship by providing a means for parent and child to share enjoyable experiences, to observe and learn about one another, and to develop mutual respect.

Program Pledge

We, Guides and Princesses, through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this Tribe (or Nation), and to our community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of Our Creator."

FRAMEWORK FOR GUIDES AND PRINCESS PROGRAM

The Parent and Child Guide and Princess program is a fundamental part of our work with families, emphasizing the vital role that parents play in the growth and development of their child. The program plan of sons/daughters learning directly from their father or mother is a pattern drawn from the tradition of some Native American cultural groups. This organization seeks to strengthen the foundations for a positive lifelong relationship between parent and child that is mutually beneficial and satisfying.

The Tribe Is The Center Of Activity

The Guide and Princess program enables fathers/mothers and their sons/daughters, usually 5 to 9 years of age, to participate together in a variety of activities that nurture mutual understanding, love, and respect. A tribe consists of 7 to 10 fathers/mothers and their sons/daughters, and the tribe meets in the members' homes on a rotating basis, usually once a month. Parent and child is the basic unit of the program, and the other members of their family support their experience together with the tribe. The family also shares in some of the program experiences and events. Program opportunities in which parent and child participate include: crafts, storytelling, games, songs, outings, service projects, and camping.

Program Theme

The Guide and Princess program has been developed around an American Indian theme. Parents and Children will experience new activities including events like roller-skating, bowling, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, hiking and more. With their tribes they will experience teamwork and adventure through campout activities, soccer, floor hockey and tribal meetings.

At the forefront of the program are the compass points. The compass points lend an inspiration for activities and also provide a framework from which to build an American Indian theme. The compass points outline the program's focus on strengthening parent-child relationships through small tribal communities while participating in activities that help meet the program's objectives. The four main directional points on the compass are the essential components of the program:

The Family is True North—the focal point of the program.

Nature and the camping experience are integral parts of the program.

The spirit of the program is experienced through belonging to a small **community** called a Tribe.

Fun is the magic of the program.

The core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility make up the other directional points. Along the journey, adults should model, teach, and demonstrate these values. They also should give children many opportunities to practice and celebrate these values and to discuss behavior that is inconsistent with the values. Initially, these values will provide guidance in helping children select activities, make decisions, and decide on an appropriate course of action, both within the program and in all aspects of their lives. Ideally, as children grow, these values will become their own internal compasses.

BASIC INFORMATION AND TERMS FOR THE GUIDES AND PRINCESSES PROGRAM

The following information reflects good practices in the program across the nation. The definition of terms is intended to provide a frame of reference for understanding the Program.

1. The purpose of the program is to foster the companionship between parent and child, seeking to strengthen a healthy relationship between them and to support the young child's growth experience.
2. The parent role is one of participation with their child. The parent observes their child's relationship in the group; they see their strengths and needs, which thus affords them a basis for aiding their child. Likewise, the child observes the parent in action with other parents and children, which provides them with a very important adult model.
3. The theme of the program is an adventure, which offering a common interest, provides both parent and child multiple opportunities for adventurous and innovative projects, special events, and outings.
4. Tribal membership is open to every parent with a child between 5 and 10 years of age. Children in 5th grade through high school may join the Trailblazers group within the program.
5. The tribe is the organizational unit for the Guide and Princess members. It consists of six to nine teams of parents and children.
6. Meetings of the tribe are usually held once a month in a member's home from 7 to 8 p.m. Homes are rotated as meeting sites. Special events such as a trip, camp-out, or party may be held occasionally at a different time. Responsibility for the conduct of the meeting is shared by all tribe members. One parent is selected as chief, and the various tribal offices are delegated to the parents and children.
7. Parent-and-child attendance together is required; this is not a children's program and the rule that parents must attend a meeting with their child must be enforced.
8. Business meetings are kept very short in the tribal council; parents attend special parents' meetings to develop program plans.
9. Program activities include games, crafts, and stories. These are fun experiences for parents and children. Advance planning is required by the parent/child team assigned the responsibility for the song or game or craft. Special events, outings, and field trips add further zest to a well-balanced program.
10. Religious emphasis through stories, legends, prayers, and ceremonies provides important moments of reverence, quiet, and awe. A child learns his basic religious orientation in his home, but in the group he can increase his awareness of his relationship with God and with his fellow tribal members. Parents need to share their religious convictions with their children.
11. Refreshments are kept simple; the host provides the treats at the end of the meeting.
12. The Nation is the inter-tribal council organization that supports the program planning of the tribes, that coordinates special events, and that establishes policies and standards.
13. Much of the work of the program is carried out by parent volunteers; many parents volunteer to serve as Guide and Princess tribal organizers and supervisors. The Outfitter seeks to coordinate with program leaders the program activities and development of tribes; he/she can provide counsel on the program, the growth of children, the training of leadership, and organizational practice.

WHY GUIDES AND PRINCESSES?

There are many activities and organizations, which vie for the time and membership of your children. There is Little League baseball, soccer, Scouts, arts and craft groups, to mention only a few. Each of these has a place and plays an important role in developing children. I do not deny this. In fact, it was tempting for me. Why not, for a small fee, let someone else who is cleverer with crafts, or is skilled in athletics, or has more patience, work with my child? After all, after a nine or ten-hour day, I've earned the right to some rest and privacy, haven't I?

However, I discovered that I didn't know my child, and therefore he probably didn't know me. So together we joined the Indian Guides, and I hope that for the past several years you have come to know and understand me better. I believe that because of this period spent together, I can hear you more clearly.

If you will permit me, I would like to tell your parent some of the things I've heard you saying, but that you haven't been able to put into words:

- Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.
- Don't let me form bad habits. I rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
- Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly.
- Don't correct me in front of people. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.
- Don't make me feel my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.
- Don't constantly protect me. I sometimes have to learn the painful way.
- Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. Sometimes I use them to get the attention I need.
- Don't nag. If you do, I'll protect myself by appearing deaf.
- Don't make rash promises. Remember I feel badly let down when you don't keep them.
- Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as well as I should. That is why I am not always very accurate.
- Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
- Don't be inconsistent. That confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.
- Don't put me off when I ask a question. If you do, I'll stop asking and go elsewhere to find my information.
- Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real to me.
- Don't forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be very difficult for you to keep up with me, but please try.
- Don't forget I love experimenting. I couldn't go on without it so please put up with me.
- And finally, don't forget I need lots of love and understanding. But, I don't have to tell you this Dad, do I?

AFTER ALL.... WE ARE "FRIENDS FOREVER"!!

Presented to the National Longhouse Convention Colorado '73
Charles Bash, Fox Tribe
Ponca Nation, Southwest, Denver

Yomechas Federation / Nation / Tribe Officers

The Federation Longhouse Council is composed of the twenty-two leaders who manage the operation of the Guide and Princess Program in our area. They are listed below by title. Each officer is responsible for the planning, organizing and conducting of one or more activities throughout the program year. By attending the monthly Federation Longhouse Council meetings, they assist the Federation Chief in the planning and administration of all activities and events. Federation and Nation officers are volunteers from tribes of all 5 Nations, bunkhouses within the Trailblazers, tribes within the Woodland Nation and from the community. Listed below are these officers:

Federation Chief	Sachem	Fire Starter
Outfitter	Sand Painter	Web Spinner
Federation Assistant Chief	Drumbeater	Organizer
Wampum Bearer	Canoe Maker	Nation Chiefs (5)
Tally Keeper	Elder	Trailblazers Council Foreman
Scout	Pathfinder	Woodland Nation Chief

The duties of every officer in the Federation are explained in great detail in the Yomechas Federation Constitution, copies of which are issued to all Tribal Chiefs and Federation Officers. These may be read by any program member and can be found on our official website located at www.yomechas.org.

Nation Officers:

Nation officers are similar to those of the Federation. Each officer in the Nation has one or several events to plan and conduct during the program year. In most cases, that officer works with his/her Federation counterpart in planning and running their respective events. Winter indoor sports are organized by the War Chief:

1. **War Chief:** Organizes all aspects of the annual Nation winter sports leagues (indoor soccer for girls, floor hockey for boys).
 - a. Works with Nation Chief to determine budget and time-frame (typically 10-12 weeks between January and March).
 - b. Secures location for weekly games and provides certificate of insurance to host site (contact Outfitter for a copy of certificate).
 - c. Organizes location payment with Nation Chief / Federation Wampum Bearer.
 - d. Reaches out to tribes regarding teams and identifying a tribal coach (dad) to act as tribe contact.
 - e. Develops a regular season and playoff schedule.
 - f. Acts as point of contact with the facilities staff during designated game times.
 - g. Communicates with tribal coaches as needed.

Tribal Officers:

A tribe typically has three officers:

1. **Chief:** Calls and conducts all tribal meetings and activities. Attends monthly Nation Longhouse meetings and provides leadership to the whole tribe.
 - a. Acts as the head of the tribe, with full authority to call and conduct all tribal meetings.
 - b. Responsible for the activities and programs of the tribe.
 - c. Assigns tribal duties to all members.
 - d. Responsible for ensuring that all Nation Longhouse meetings are attended by himself or another member of the tribe.
 - e. Responsible for ensuring that the recommendations and programs of the Federation and his Nation are promoted and carried out.
 - f. Responsible for safeguarding of all tribal property, including written and printed materials, and passing them on in full to the next tribal chief.
2. **Assistant Chief:** Conducts special tribal ceremonies. Assumes the responsibilities of the Tribal Chief in his/her absence.
 - a. Assists the Tribal Chief as required.
 - b. Presides over tribal meetings in the absence of the Tribal Chief.
 - c. Responsible for organizing and running special tribal ceremonies when appropriate.
 - d. Responsible for acquisition and distribution of program materials as required, such as program manuals, Canoe-On-Wheels kits, name tags, vest patterns, patches, etc.
3. **War Chief:** Organizes tribal activity around the annual Nation winter sports leagues (indoor soccer for girls, floor hockey for boys).
 - a. Communicates the season schedule to tribal members.
 - b. Ensures adequate turnout for games.
 - c. Serves as tribal coach during games.
 - g. Communicates with Nation War Chief and other Tribal War Chiefs as needed.

RESOURCES FROM THE OUTFITTER TO THE GUIDES AND PRINCESSES.

The Outfitter

The Outfitter is the dedicated part-time support person to the Guides and Princess Program, the Yomechas Federation, and its members.

The Outfitter:

- Can answer many of your questions regarding the Guide and Princess program
- Assists program and event registration
- Is a resource for craft and program ideas
- Coordinates printing service
- Can refer you to other Federation leaders for program advice and ideas
- Assists in program publicity and new member recruiting

The Yomechas Federation Outfitter may be contacted at (630) 708-0469, or at Jennifer_Anderson@yomechas.org on the internet.

GOOD PRACTICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL GUIDE OR PRINCESS MEETING

Tribal Meetings

Typically, each family will have an opportunity to host a Tribal meeting during the year. 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 Tribal groups. With the help of the Chief, who usually is responsible for ensuring sound preparation of 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 3 to 6 months in advance. This helpful guide should be made available to all families as a reminder of meetings and duties.

GUIDE AND PRINCESS TRIBAL PROGRAM CHART

TRIBE		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN.		FEB.	
FAMILY'S NAME	MEETING DATE										
1		H			P	C	SO	ST	G	H	
2		G	H			P	C	SO	ST	G	H
3		ST	G	H			P	C	SO	ST	G
4		SO	ST	G	H			P	C	SO	ST
5		C	SO	ST	G	H			P	C	SO
6		P	C	SO	ST	G	H			P	C
7			P	C	SO	ST	G	H			P
8				P	C	SO	ST	G	H		

The symbols include:

H-Host

ST-Story

C-Craft

G-Game

P-Prayer or Devotion

The tribe meeting is the key ingredient to a successful program experience. Time invested in planning meetings, which run on time, are interesting to parents and children, and have a sense of ritual and purpose will result in a more positive experience and greater commitment for all members. Most Tribes meet twice each month of the school year: once for a Tribal meeting and once for a Tribal outing or at a Nation gathering. Some Tribes meet twice per month in addition to adventures and Nation gatherings. Continuity and regular meetings make for a stronger Tribe. Every tribe should hold at least one regular tribal meeting each month.

Tribal meetings are best held in member homes. The process of parent and child working together to prepare their home for their tribe to visit is an important social learning opportunity. We learn valuable skills in preparing, greeting, hosting, and cleaning up! We learn to show respect for others as we visit other member's homes. Where member homes do not afford the space for the Tribe to meet, alternate locations might include a school classroom, church or neighborhood recreation center.

Responsibilities Of The Host Parent/Child

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

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

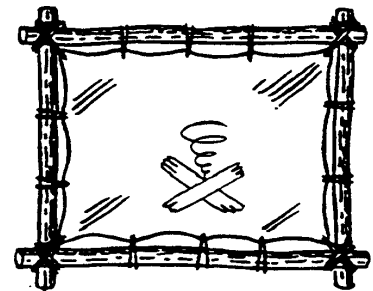
Preparing For A Meeting

1. The Chief should check by phone with the hosts before the meeting to make sure that all arrangements have been made.
2. Each member should be asked to arrive early enough to start and close the meeting on time.
3. No family should serve more than two items for refreshments. Eating together should be stressed. Use finger foods.
4. Storytellers should be rotated.
5. As often as weather permits, outdoor meetings should be planned.
6. Hosts are responsible for the introduction of one or two new games. These should be planned ahead of time.
7. In order that solemnity and dignity may be maintained at councils, each officer, large or small, must know his part. To conserve space, each child should sit on the floor in front of his parent.
8. Family program on a tribal level should be considered as a special event or maybe during the summer

Invitations For Meetings

Invitations are used to announce the date, time, and place of each meeting. The invitation should be delivered to each home by the host parent and child prior to the meeting date. Use of invitations can create a home project for the parent and child to work out together and also provide a decoration for the home and "memento" of the meeting. Following are some possible suggestions:

1. Boats or Canoe - made out of paper, wood, or bark.
2. Tent or Tepee - cone paper cup or twigs and paper.
3. Drum or Instrument
4. Tomahawk - paper, wood, cardboard.
5. Animal hide - leather, paper, and cardboard.
6. Animal Heads - plaster molds or paper.
7. Arrow - paper or wood.
8. Beads - paper or turkey beads.
9. Map - paper or leather.
10. Wood - pieces of wood or tree limbs.
11. Shields - plywood, paper, cardboard.
12. Arrowheads - paper, cardboard, wood, rock.
13. Moccasins - leather or paper drawing.
14. Twig Design - Symbol out of twigs.
15. Pine cones
16. Tree leaves - actual or paper drawing.
17. Hat or Head band - paper.
18. Animal tracks - leather or paper



Guide For Interesting Meetings

The basic purpose of Guides and Princesses is to increase the number of things that a parent and child can enjoy doing together at a time when each child thinks their parent is the greatest person on earth. Tribal meetings are a means to this end. It is important, then, that the Tribal meeting be interesting to the children and that they have ample opportunity to participate in the meeting. They must be child meetings rather than "parent" meetings. While parents and children participate in meetings together, this rule still applies: "the mind can absorb only what the seat can endure." To ensure that you are doing all of the above, test your tribal meetings against the list of recommended practices listed below:

- **Invitations** are prepared and distributed at least five days ahead of each meeting.
- **Start meetings** on time... close them on time
- Tribes demand complete **silence during meeting** and each tribal member uses buffalo sign for permission to speak (a talking stick is helpful).
- **Stay carefully within the time allowed** for each part of the meeting. Don't drag over into activity time with business.
- Serve only two items for **refreshments at meetings**.
- Tribes that **meet regularly once a month** and follow the suggested outline are the most successful.
- **Stay with a project until completed**. Do it well and keep it for the child primarily.
- Parents and children who miss too many meetings should be replaced.
- **Monthly parent meetings** are a must for successful tribes. This should be held shortly after the Nation Longhouse, to pass on information and to outline future projects, meetings, etc.
- Choose **games** for the meetings, which parent and child can participate in together.
- Parent and child should **sit together during meeting and during refreshments**. Many tribes sit with parents on chairs and children on the floor between their knees.
- **The Chief is in charge of meeting**. He must be in control and be a real leader.
- Children should not attend meetings or events without their parent.

Suggested Outline Of A Guide or Princess Tribal Meeting

The suggested outline for the regular tribal meeting that follows is not meant to be an arbitrary one. The important thing is to plan in advance a good, orderly program for each meeting. Psychologists and teachers advise alternating periods of activity and inactivity for six-to-ten year olds.

Time	Activity	Responsibility
6:55 - 6:59 PM	All parents and children arrive at meeting	Entire Tribe
7:00 - 7:10 PM	Opening ritual. At this point, some tribes hold a prayer by a member or silent prayer.	Chief and Host Team
7:10 – 7:15 pm	Chief's talk - If the Chief has a sense of humor and is willing to put Folklore into his report, he can furnish an interesting part of the council program.	Chief
7:15 - 7:30 PM	Collection of dues and introductions. The tribe remains quiet while each child introduces themselves using their program name and given name They will also tell what they have done to be worthy of membership in the Guides and Princesses and report how their Tribe dues were earned and submit dues to the Tribal Wampum Bearer.	Entire Tribe
7:30 – 7:40 PM	Field Reports: Each child is encouraged to report on a parent/child project, outing, trip or other activity or accomplishment since the last Tribal meeting. This would be an ideal time for Parent and Child to earn any beads of accomplishment. A Tribe "talking stick" or other item is passed to ensure that only the child making the report is speaking. Stop at 7:40, for the next item is a MUST.	Entire Tribe
7:40 – 7:50 PM	Business Meeting: Cover only essential items of interest to all parents and children. Announce next meeting date and place. Do not let this go on any longer than 10 minutes.	Chief
7:50 – 8:10 PM	Activity - DON'T MISS THIS. Conduct a game and or simple completed-in-one meeting craft. Almost regardless of what else is included in the program. For parent and child to have fun together is IMPORTANT. But do not let the game and/or craft run until the children are tired of it. Stop it, or change the game while it's still going well.	Lead by Host Team and participated by Entire Tribe
8:10 – 8:25 PM	Refreshments – Remember, two items! Chiefs should urge hosts to have refreshments ALL READY TO SERVE - and not to wait until 8:10 to start the cocoa, put cookies on the serving plates, and so forth. Always avoid "dead" time in the meeting and the time the tribe spends in waiting for hosts to open bottles and get food ready is almost sure to be dead.	Served by Host team and enjoyed by Entire Tribe
8:25 – 8:30 PM	Closing Ceremony: All members recite the closing ceremony together.	Chief
8:30 PM	Everybody leaves for home. (Another effective, well-planned meeting in a month. The difference between a well-planned meeting and an unplanned and poorly timed one makes the effort to plan a good meeting well worthwhile.)	Entire Tribe

Opening Ritual

The opening ritual tells all members that we are now moving into a special place, an imaginative place, where Tribal rules will guide behavior. The opening ritual should not vary from one meeting to the next. It should be known and repetitive. Just as the flag salute marks the beginning of the school day, the opening ritual calls us to the beginning of our Tribe. The opening ritual might include:

- Parents and Children Sitting together.
- Opening thoughts or prayer.
- Flag salute.
- Reciting of the program aims.

Below outlines a sample ritual that your Tribe can follow:

Responsibility	Discussion/Activity
Host Child	<i>Slow beating of the drum to call all members to the Tribal meeting and quieting the group.</i>
Chief	Drumbeater, please beat the drum for each person present
Host Child	<i>Beat drum once for each person present at this meeting.</i>
Chief	Great Creator, as we gather at this tribe meeting, dwell among us and guide us. Give us wisdom and understanding. We are grateful for our families, our friends, and our health. Oh, Great Creator, hear our words.
Host Child	<i>Beat drum twice</i>
Chief	The council is open. Assume the position of tribe unity. (Stand parent facing child)
Chief	Tribe, what is the pledge of Guides and Princesses?
Entire Tribe	We, Guides and Princesses, through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this Tribe and to our community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of Our Creator.
Chief	Tribe, what are the seven aims of Guides and Princesses?
Entire Tribe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be clean in body and pure in heart. 2. To be Friends Forever with my father/mother/son/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 respect the traditions and beliefs of all people 7. To seek and preserve the beauty of the Creator's work in forest, field and streams.
Chief	Tribe, what is the slogan of Guides and Princesses?
Entire Tribe	Friends Forever (Be Seated)
Chief	Drum Beater, what is a Guide or Princess?
Host Child	Guides and Princesses are fathers/mothers and sons/daughters, who do things together, like my dad/mom and I.
Chief	Drum Beater, why do you beat the drum?
Host Child	The beating of the drum calls the tribe together and tells its members to come to order.
Chief	Compass Bearer, what are your duties of your office?

Assistant Chief	The duties of the Assistant Chief are to distribute tribal awards, assist the Chief as required and lead the tribe next year.
Chief	Elder, what are your duties of your office?
Elder	The duties of the Elder are to advise the Chief and tribe with wisdom and experience.
Chief	Tribe, why are we in Guides or Princesses?
Entire Tribe	We, Guides and Princesses, through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this Tribe and to our community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of Our Creator.
Chief	The council is now open

Chief's Talk

Immediately following the opening ceremony, the Chief says a few words to the tribe, sharing Folklore, reminding the tribe of its ideals, or speaking of the Great Creator or wonders of nature. The chief may also recognize rites of passage or accomplishments of Tribal members, talk about the season of the year or some special event or day coming up, or may pose questions focusing on one of the program aims. This talk should not be long. If they get restless, come to a stop. It is another chance to pass on learning of value to the children.

Tribal Dues

Most tribes collect tribal dues at each meeting. Parents and children should earn dues by doing projects together around the home. Dues usually range from 50¢ to \$1.00 per parent or child. These dues are determined by the tribe and make up the Tribal Money Pouch. The collection of the dues calls for both child and parent to report on how they earned the money. This assists children in learning the value of money, encourages them to do things for others, and challenges parents to spend more constructive time with their children. Dues are used to buy tribal property, fund meetings, events and adventures, or may be donated to a worthy cause.

Field reports

Field reports by children are an important agenda item for the tribal meeting. There is real merit in having the child stand and give a report of something they did or saw since the last meeting. If the report concerns something that they did with their parent, it is even better. Parents can help their children to watch for subjects from nature, family fun, or other adventures. Each parent, too, has a chance to report on his/her own vocation as well as a shared experience with his/her child.

Field reports from tribal members are an important part of the tribal meeting and serve to build confidence speaking in front of a group, to bring awareness to the possibilities of parent and child activity, and to strengthen the memory of time with parent and child.

A field report from a project or activity that both parent and child have participated in together does three important things:

1. Develops poise and speaking ability in the child, giving the child a chance to add value to the meeting.
2. Helps the child "See what they are looking at" in the world... to look more closely at nature, to view the very small and the very large, to muse about what has been seen, and to experience the Great Creators presence in their life.
3. Encourages us as parents to do more with our child as we hear the great report from others!

Young members will struggle at first making field reports but their confidence will grow. Some prompting and encouragement may be necessary at first, but parents can talk the matter over with their child prior to the meeting. It is important that parents not "jump in" and make the report for the child. Recognition can be given for a "first time" field report with a few kind words of encouragement or a small token. The Chief may also choose to announce a topic for field reports at the next meeting such as, "At our next meeting, each young member will have a chance to report on what job they would like to have when they grow up."

Business Meeting

Only essential items that are of interest to parents and children should be covered. Other items should be dealt with at parent meetings. The purpose of the business-meeting portion is to help children understand that good planning is a part of creating positive experiences and to empower our children to impact the activities of the Tribe. The business portion of the meeting should include:

- Congratulations for the invitation (and an explanation from the host on how they were made).
- Upcoming tribal project or outing in the next month.
- Upcoming Nation and Federation Meetings in the next month.
- Ideas from young members on other items to be brought to the parent meeting.

Have handouts prepared prior to meeting to accelerate this part of the meeting.

Activity

The meeting host presents the game, craft project, or other activity involving parents and children participating together. Activities should stress parent and child involvement. Crafts should be simple completed-in-one meeting crafts and should be geared to the age of all children in the Tribe.

Refreshments

The meeting host provides simple refreshments with usually no more than two items. The host parent and child should serve refreshments.

Closing Ceremony

The Chief calls the Tribe back together for the closing ceremony. This marks the end of the meeting and all members should leave following the closing.

The following outlines a ritual that can be used in closing the Tribal Meeting:

Responsibility	Discussion/Activity
Host Child	(beat drum with slow strokes)
Chief	In closing, would we join in a circle with children facing their parents and let us speak the words that the Great Creator has given us to send us on our way and end our evening together.
Entire Tribe	<i>(Tribe gathers in a circle)</i> And now... (pointing to the ground) May our Great Father in Heaven (arms raised with hands drawing small circles) Be with you... (Pointing to other members of the tribe) For today (pointing to the ground) And forevermore (shooting an arrow into the sky)
Chief	And how about a round of applause for our hosts _____ (program name for host child and parent).
Entire Tribe	<i>Tribe applauds host team for a successful meeting.</i>

Other items that can be part of Guide and Princess Tribal Meetings

- Quiz contests—on program aims, slogan, history, or other subjects interesting to your people.
- Handicraft exhibits, nature study, hobbies, brief educational talks by the parents--to open new horizons of information for children and parents.
- Singing -for fellowship and sharing of talent.
- Prayers and poems - to identify the importance of spiritual resources.

Below are some ways to improve Tribal Meetings should the Tribe be having difficulties

Problem	Suggestion
Can't get meeting started on time	Start meeting at an odd time – 7:23 pm for example to reinforce the importance of respecting our time together.
Meetings run too late.	Set an alarm clock to ring at the end of the meeting ritual time and the end of program time.
Parents talking too much.	Have one parent keep a tally of the number of times each parent and each child speaks. Discuss at the next parent meeting.
Children playing. Parents watching.	Plan games that call the parent and child to compete on the same team
Parents talking business during meeting	Chief intervenes and stops it. Refer matter to the next parent meeting
Inattention of children at meeting... talking and giggling... running around	If it's interesting, they'll pay attention. If they know that good things will happen when they pay attention, they will.
Poor behavior among parents or children.	Re-establish tribal ground rules for how we how respect to one another.

A CASE FOR PARENTS' MEETINGS

Purpose

- To provide an opportunity for parents to get acquainted.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to fellowship together.
- To provide an opportunity to plan program and make assignments.
- To provide an opportunity to evaluate past program.
- To discuss matters relative to the needs and growth of your children.

Our Studies Show

The children think parents talk too much at the meetings. Discussing tribal business wastes valuable tribal meeting time. Tribes that have separate parents' meetings accomplish more and realize more of the value of the Guides and Princesses program.

Parents' meetings are ineffective unless conducted properly. Tribes "short-cut" on meeting procedures because they haven't stopped to consider the significance of each program step.

Recommendations

1. Parents' meetings can be conducted monthly or quarterly depending on the needs of the tribe.
2. Parents' meetings can be conducted in an hour if planned properly.
3. Parents' meetings are an excellent time to share your fishing experiences, business problems, etc. with the other parents. (After the regular tribal business has been transacted, of course.)
4. Some tribes meet - take the children home - and then convene for a parents' meeting. It avoids "another night out".
5. Invite an experienced Guide or Princess parent, new tribe organizer, Federation or Nation Officer, Outfitter, or other resource person to help in your planning or problem solving.
6. The Chief should work out an agenda for parents' meetings.
7. This might be an opportunity to invite the "other" parent to learn about the program - or about what makes children of this age tick.

Plan parents' meetings regularly - they pay dividends.

OTHER USEFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Chief's term of office** should be for a period not less than one year.
- **Parents** are responsible for the success of a tribe. They must devote time to their child.
- Some successful tribes give **awards** for projects and good behavior. This helps keep interest up. Awards could be beads, necklaces, medals, etc.
- The **Chief** from each tribe must attend the Nation Longhouse Meeting. Regular attendance is the Chief's responsibility. If the Chief is sick, he must send the Assistant Chief or Elder.
- Each Parent and Child must be able to **recite the Pledge, Purpose, Slogan, and Aims of the Guides and Princesses**. (See manual).
- Having Tribal events that **include other family members** is a good practice and will help the create bonds with the family.
- Bring the **entire family** to the Induction Ceremony and Canoe on Wheels and Christmas Party.
- If the tribe becomes larger than 30 members it should split into two tribes.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON AND RESOURCES FOR THE GUIDES AND PRINCESSES

The Twenty-Third Psalm by an American Indian

The Great Father above is a Shepherd Navigator, I am His, and with Him I want not. He throws out to me a rope, and the name of the rope is Love, and he draws me, and draws me, and draws me to where the grass is green, and the water is not dangerous, and I eat and lie down satisfied. Sometimes my head grows very weak and falls down but He lifts it up again, and draws me into a good road. His name is Wonderful. Sometimes it may be soon, it may be longer, it may be a long, long time; He will draw me into a place between mountains. It is dark there, but I will draw back not, I will be afraid not, for it is in there between these mountains that the Shepherd Navigator will meet me, and the hunger that I have felt in my heart all through this life will be satisfied. Sometimes He makes the love rope into a whip, but afterward He gives me a staff to lean upon. He sets a table with all kinds of food. He puts His hands upon my head and all the tired is gone. He fills my cup until it runs over. What I tell you is true. I lie not. These roads that are away ahead will stay with me through this life, and afterward I shall go to live in the Big Teepee, and sit down with the Shepherd Navigator forever.

The Lord's Prayer as it was written for Indians by one who loved them.

GREAT SPIRIT, whose teepee is the sky and whose hunting ground is the earth,
Mighty and fearful are you called.
Ruler over storms, over men and birds and beasts,
Have your way over all -
Over earth ways as over skyways.
Find us this day our meat and corn, that we may be strong and explore.
And put aside from us our wicked ways as we put aside the bad works of them who do us wrong.
And let us not have such troubles as lead us into crooked roads,
But keep us from all evil,
For you're in all that is - the earth and the sky, the streams, the hills and the valleys, the stars, the moon, and the sun, and all that live and breathe, Wonderful. shining mighty Spirit

Official Indian Guides Song

Pals Forever (Tune: "Clementine")

Pals forever, pals forever, that's our slogan, that's our song.
Boys are stronger, dads feel younger, when they take the boys along.
Moms are for it, dads adore it, and the boys all think it's fine.
Pals forever, pals forever, as Indian guides we'll have good times.
Through the days and through the years we will wander side by side.
Pals forever, pals forever, the Great Spirit is our guide.



What Young People Want Their Parents To Do

1. Treat all your children with equal affection.
2. Keep close to them.
3. Make their friends welcome in your home.
4. Don't quarrel in front of them.
5. Be thoughtful to each other.
6. Never lie to them.
7. Always answer their questions.
8. Don't punish them in the presence of others.
9. Be constant in your affection and moves.
10. Concentrate on good points, not failings.

-- Christopher News Notes

The Value Of Your Smile

A smile costs nothing but creates much.

It enriches those that receive it without impoverishing those who give it.

It happens in the flash of a memory, sometimes lasting forever.

It is blessed to the weary, delight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad.

It is nature's vast antidote for trouble.

It cannot be bought, begged, borrowed nor stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anyone unless it is given.

If in the hurry of life, you meet someone who is too weary to give you a smile, leave one of yours, for there is no one who needs one so much as the one who has none to give.

"Ideals are like stars. We may not succeed in touching them with our hands, but using them as guides as did the seafaring men in days of old, we will ultimately reach our destiny."

-- Carl Schurz

"To look up and not down,
To look forward and not back,
To look out and not in, and
To lend a hand."

-- Edward Everett Hale