



# Program Guide

[www.PrincessAndGuides.com](http://www.PrincessAndGuides.com)

# Introduction

Thank you for joining the Bear Creek Federation Indian Guide/Indian Princess Program. You should be contacted by the Chief of your tribe shortly. If not, please send an email to either [meshenewa@dfwguides.org](mailto:meshenewa@dfwguides.org) (Guides Program) or [meshenewa@dfwindianprincess.com](mailto:meshenewa@dfwindianprincess.com) (Princess Program).

Our program has been in existence of well over 20 years and currently consists of four "Nations" - Yo-He-Wah (NE Tarrant County Princess Program), Wichita (NE Tarrant County Guides Program), Tatanka, Caddo (Collin County Princess/Guides Program) and Grey Feather (for children who have outgrown our other programs). 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, each program will hold a number of Nation events. Whether it's camping, skating, hiking, participating in making crafts, Pinewood Derby, Rocket Day, Fishing Hole Day, dancing at the Sweetheart Banquet, Holiday Party, or participating in a number of charitable events, you and your child will have the opportunity to build a special relationship between Father/Son and Father/ Daughter that will create wonderful lifelong memories for both.

What follows is a brief overview of our program. If you have additional questions, please go to our main website ([www.PrincessAndGuides.com](http://www.PrincessAndGuides.com)) for more information and additional contacts. Links to the websites of the different nations can be found on the last page of this document.

If your child has friend you think would enjoy our program - please pass this along. There is always room for one more!

Again, welcome to our program and get ready to start making memories with your son or daughter! Or, as we say in our program "Ya-Tah-Hay!"

Bear Creek Federation

## TRIBE

The tribe is the basic organization of our Indian Guides/Princess Program. Fathers and sons/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 three main officers:

**Chief** - the leader of the tribe who conducts the monthly meetings and represents the tribe and the Nation Longhouse meetings.

**Assistant Chief** - Aide and substitute for the Chief (and mostly likely the Chief of the tribe the following year)

**Wampum Bearer** - handles the finances of the tribe.

Each tribe has additional officers such as a Tribal Talleykeeper, Tribal Medicine Man, Tribal Fire Starter, etc. More information is available on our website. While all tribes are part of our program, each tribe has its own schedules, rituals, and traditions that make it special and unique!

## NATION

The tribes of each program (Guides or Princess) form a "nation". Each nation meets monthly at "Longhouse" to plan and manage the affairs of the Nation (including campouts, events, finances, charitable causes, parties, etc.). Officers for each Nation mirror those of the Tribes and preside over the Nation events, most importantly the campouts and bon fire ceremonies. Each nation has its own website and those links are available on our main website [www.PrincessAndGuides.com](http://www.PrincessAndGuides.com).

## BEAR CREEK FEDERATION

The nations report into Bear Creek Federation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The directors of Bear Creek are typically either current or former participants in the program and met regularly to provide guidance and structure to the program and the Nations. Bear Creek Federation also obtains insurance, legal and accounting services for the program.

## **SOME BASIC TRIBAL MEETING ACTIVITIES**

Each tribe varies in how it conducts its monthly meetings. Here are some things that different tribes do. The important thing is to have fun and build a bond among the members of the tribe!

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/Guides 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 the programs aims, slogan, Native American history, or other subjects interesting to your people.
5. **HANDICRAFT EXHIBITS, NATURE STUDY, HOBBIES, BRIEF EDUCATIONAL TALKS BY THE FATHERS** - to open new horizons of information for braves/princesses.
6. **TALKS/STORIES BY THE CHIEF OR OTHER OFFICER** - 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 exercise.
9. **PRAYERS AND POEMS** - to identify the importance of spiritual resources.
10. **REFRESHMENTS** - a treat for everyone!

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST BRAVES/PRINCESSES**

Meetings can be hosted at members' homes, at a school or church, a park, or wherever there is room. Some tribes have meetings at firehouses and museums from time-to-time. 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 – Beginning of each meeting**

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

### **Princess Meeting**

We, 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 slogan is "Friends Always".

The Aims are:

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart.
2. To be "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.

### **Guides Meeting**

We, father and son, 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 slogan is "Pals Forever".

The Aims are:

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart.
2. To be "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 - end of each meeting and campout ceremonies**

One of the highlights of the tribal meeting or Nation bonfire is our closing prayer.

**TRIBAL PRAYER**

*(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**

The Chief of the tribe will assign members tasks in advance of any meeting or campout or nation event (especially if that tribe is "hosting" the nation event. When your Chief asks you to help, please step up and do what is needed. The children have much more fun when the events are well planned, organized, and staffed from the refreshments at a tribal meeting to hosting a Nation campout.

## **TRIBAL POSITIONS**

As the end of each program year approaches, tribal officers positions should be filled for the following year. Generally by April, the Nation will request the name of the new Chief and Assistant Chief. Tribal officers should be rotated regularly and everyone should take a turn as Chief or Assistant Chief of the tribe. It is also important that fathers step up to be Nation officers so that the program can continue to grow and prosper for many more years.

## **TRIBAL DUES (WAMPUM)**

Many tribes collect tribal Wampum at each meeting usually in the range of \$1.00 per child (though each tribe will have its own ceremonies and traditions). Most tribes have a ceremony whereby a coup stick is passed around a circle of braves and princesses and each child says their Indian name and the Indian name of their father. The child then describes something fun or unique that they did with their father since the last time the tribe was together (a "scout report"). It is at this time that the wampum is collected. The dues make up the Tribal Wampum and are used by the tribe for projects, activities, outings, or are donated to a charity of the children's' choosing.

Additionally, most tribes collect a one-time payment at the beginning of the year to cover large expenses such as camp out costs, food, and other tribal expenses. This is usually in the area of \$50 to \$100 per father. Note that this is in addition to the registration fee paid to the Nation at the start of each activity year.

## **SCOUT REPORTS**

As mentioned above, scout reports by the children are an important agenda item for the tribal meeting. There is real merit in having your child stand with the Coup Stick and give reports of something they did with their father or even just something unique that they saw since the last meeting. Some prompting and encouragement may be necessary but after a few meetings most of the boys and girls will begin to talk freely and at length! Watching

their self confidence grow is a real treat. You can help their children to watch for subjects from nature, family fun, or Native American culture to share with the rest of the tribe.

## **CHIEF'S TALKS**

The Chief will generally say a few words to the tribe at every meeting. It may be a story about Native Americans, reminding the tribe of its ideals, speaking of the Great Spirit or wonders of nature, or even a short story emphasizing a positive character trait or moral lesson.

## **TRIBAL PROPERTY**

Tribes can use meetings to make "Tribal Property" (banners, Coup Stick, "spears", necklaces, etc.) Tribal property should include a totem pole (for campouts), drum and drum stick, Coup/Talking stick and wampum bag. Many tribes also have an easy craft for the children to complete during the meetings. The goal is to have fun and spend time with the kids!

## **Nation Events**

The Nation conducts many events throughout the year. The most important are the campouts (typically Opening, Fall, Winter, 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 (time for the tribe to bond and 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 award ceremonies
  - b. Camp site clean-up

Additionally, each Nation may sponsor special events at campouts, such as horse riding, rock climbing, scavenger hunt, etc. Special entertainment may be provided at the bon fires, such as Indian dancers and professional story tellers or singers. Sometimes the tribes provide the entertainment with songs, skits, or stories.

All 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 Sons/Daughters to spend time together! The latest information about the Nation's activities can usually be found on the website: [www.PrincessAndGuides.com](http://www.PrincessAndGuides.com) (following link to the Nation you are in) or from the tribal Chief or Assistant Chief.

## What will I need?

### Indian Names

You need to select an Indian name. The selection of names for fathers and sons/daughters should be done with the same respect and ceremony that is practiced by American Indians. The names should be respectful and tasteful and should be carried with honor by the bearer. Some examples include: Big Bear, Silver Fox, Paint the Sky, Soaring Eagle, Dancing Butterfly, and so on. Select a name that reflects your child's personality.

### Vests

Instead of uniforms, fathers and sons/daughters wear leather vests to indicate membership in Indian Guides or Indian Princess (note some tribes wear vests made of felt or cloth). Vests are worn to all events, becoming more and more adorned with patches as the years pass. Some keep their vests simple; others decorate them with beads and fringe. It's up to you!

Vests should be sized with consideration for growth, especially for younger braves. Leather vests can be purchased for around \$17 - \$34 at Tandy Leather, 3847 E. Loop 820 South, Fort Worth. Their phone number is 817-496-4874. Mention Indian Guides/Princess program and you'll get a discount. Also, don't forget to purchase Leathercraft Cement for attaching patches! Felt or cloth vests can be found on the Internet, e.g., [www.thepatchstore.com](http://www.thepatchstore.com).

### Patches

Patches are awarded to those attending various nation events and those who hold officer positions within the tribe or at the nation level and are proudly displayed on your vests.

### Camping Checklist

You need equipment for camping. A sample camping checklist can be found [here](#). You will not necessarily need everything on the list, but it can get you started. You can also use Google to compile a checklist to meet your specific needs.

**YOUR TRIBE INFORMATION**  
(take a minute to jot down key information about your tribe)

Name of Nation:

Name of Tribe:

Indian Name - Son/Daughter(s):

Indian Name - Father:

Name of Tribe's Chief:

Indian Name - Tribe's Chief:

Home Phone Number - Tribe's Chief:

Email - Tribal Chief:

Name of Nation Chief:

Email - Nation Chief:

Day / Time of Tribe's Monthly Meeting:

Important Dates:

## Nation Web Sites



<http://www.tatankanation.org/tiki-index.php>

Tatanka (Collin County Princess & Guides)



[www.allenindianguides.com](http://www.allenindianguides.com)

Caddo (Allen, TX)



[www.dfwindianprincess.com](http://www.dfwindianprincess.com)

Yo-He-Wah (N.E. Tarrant County Princess Program)



<http://www.dfwindianguides.com>

Wichita Nation (N.E. Tarrant County Guides Program)