

It's recruitment time for the young. Flyers are flying in the schools and adult leaders are out in earnest pulling together troops, dens, packs, groups and tribes for a myriad of activities they offer for as many reasons.

At first glance it would appear these various organizations are scrambling for members in competition with one another, but the heads of these organizations answer as in a chorus: "No. We all have something different to offer."

Lin Cargo of Southern Oakland Girl Scouts, Stanley Sowerwine of the Clinton Valley Council of Boy Scouts, Fred Lindholm of the YMCA, which coordinates Indian Guides, and Arlene Schofield, coordinator of the Oakland District Camp Fire Girls, talk about the groups they represent so parent and child alike may better pick and choose.

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Indian Guides

Indian Guides happen every night in Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Novi in the homes of the members of one of the 45 tribes in this area.

Some of the meetings involve mothers and daughters and some include fathers and daughters, part of the Y-Indian Maidens and Y-Indian Princess programs. These programs operate much the same as the father-and-son program but with changes in wording and activities to suit the girls involved.

The center of activity for these programs is the neighborhood "tribe" which consists of six to nine parents and their children. The children range from kindergartners to third graders and meet in one another's homes on a rotating basis, usually twice a month.

The tribe also meets sometimes for outings, trips or service projects and there are also large group activities such as campouts or even marching in a parade.

THE OBJECTIVE of all of these programs is to foster companionship between the parent and child and to strengthen a healthy relationship between them.

In order to accomplish that objective, the parent and child must attend the activities together. And, all of the parents share in the leadership and planning of the activities of the tribe. On occasion, maybe several times a year, all of the parents will have a business meeting to accomplish the majority of this planning.

The Y-Indian Guide program was developed in a deliberate way to support the father's vital family role as teacher, counselor and friend to his son. The first tribe was formed in 1926 in St. Louis and since its expansion with Y-Indian Maidens and Y-Indian Princesses, now has more than two million members annually.

Headquarters for the programs in this area is the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road.

Coordinator for the programs is Fred Lindholm, community program director, who can be contacted by calling 474-3232.

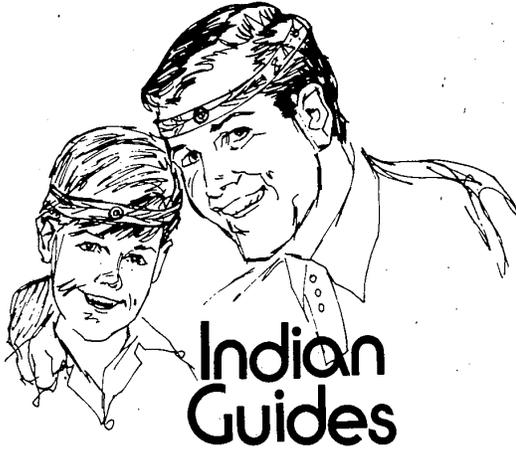
All three of the programs are national programs of the national YMCA and all materials used are supplied through the National Board of YMCA's.

THE Y REQUIRES a \$30 family membership after a family joins any one of the programs. Scholarships are available so that all families may take part.

A kit which includes a manual, headbands and patches is supplied free to new members.

Lindholm describes the tribe meetings by saying, "At 7:30 p.m. Chief Running Horse tells your son (host for the evening) to beat the Creek tribe drum 12 times to call the meeting to order.

"The hour and 15 minutes of the meeting goes fast with activities like the ritual of the tribe meeting, a craft, a simple game, refreshments and a closing ceremony."



Girl Scouts

Girl Scouting is an informal, educational program for girls from 6 through 17 years of age. It is made available to girls through the organization of groups called troops, under adult leadership and provides a wide range of activities developed around the interests and needs of the girls.

"The program is designed to supplement not duplicate formal education," said Lin Cargo from her offices at 27400 Southfield Road, headquarters for Southern Oakland Girl Scouts, Inc.

The purpose of the Girl Scout program is to provide each girl with opportunities to grow in decision making, a awareness of self worth, ability to accept and work with others. It also aims to develop values to give meaning and direction to each girl's life and in awareness of responsibilities to serve the community.

"The troop leader is the key to good programs," Ms. Cargo says, "a program that will challenge and hold the interest of girls and inspire them."

The Girl Scout program is carried out in a variety of settings. This can be small groups, camping or conferences. It can also be community, service and special projects.

The girls themselves plan their various group activities to meet their interests, and needs.

IT IS through this self-troop

management that the girls learn to make decisions and to abide by the decisions of others, learning to follow as well as to lead.

Through the citizenship and international aspects of the program the girls become more aware of and involved with the people around them.

Through the health and safety aspects the girls learn to respect and preserve human life.

Through the service and social action programs the girls have opportunities to stretch themselves and to invest themselves in the enterprise of mankind.

Southern Oakland Girl Scout Council is divided into 13 geographic areas with more than 2,600 adults working in a variety of volunteer positions to service the 13,000 Girl Scouts.



Camp Fire Girls

Girls join Camp Fire Girls "to meet new friends, to go places, have fun, help people and try out some ideas of their own," says Arlene Schofield, the group organizer for the Oakland District of the national organization.

Girls in first to third grades are called Blue Birds. Girls in fourth to sixth grades are members of the Adventure Club. Junior High schoolers are in the Discovery Club and high school schools are in the Horizon Club.

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In 1910 and is the oldest girls' organization in the country. The average Camp Fire Group consists of from 8-10 girls who sometimes meet in the leader's home, sometimes in a school or church, either after school, in the evening or on the weekends.

"WE HAVE A STANDARD costume," Mrs. Schofield says, "but groups themselves sometimes decide to use their own ideas on what to wear. There is no adult costume for the leaders, who are all volunteers."

Mrs. Schofield will take all inquiries on Camp Fire at her home by calling 476-3638.

Boy Scouts of America

Boy Scouts are recruiting now for boys of all ages to become members of cub dens, Webelos, scout troops and explorer posts.

Cubs are third and fourth graders. Webelos are fifth graders. These scouting programs are home-centered and include a progressive series of achievements and electives for a boy's personal growth: crafts, ceremonies and service projects, competitive and demonstrative projects, plus special activities with his pack.

Members of scout troops are called Scouts, rather than Boy Scouts, and the emphasis is on the trail to Eagle Scout through years of achievement in various skill awards and merit badges.

Troops meet weekly and most troops have separate weekly patrol meetings. There is also a hike, campout, tour or event monthly. The highlight comes with a week of concentrated scouting skills in summer camp.

EXPLORING is a fairly new high school-age program and includes both sexes. Generally the youth join posts as a result of a special vocational interest or a special interest, such as Sea Exploring.

A main thrust of the movement is the Cub Promise, the Scout Oath

and Law and the Explorer Citizenship Pledge, all of which stress high ideals and codes of conduct during the formative years.

World and local brotherhood has been a focal idea since the start of the movement in 1910 and since that time more than 70 million citizens have been scouts.

Membership fee is \$1 per year for national registration plus local dues, varying with the pack, troop or post. Uniforms are recommended but not required.

The Scouting movement is financed approximately 40 percent by the Detroit United Foundation and other area United Way organizations. The balance of the administrative expenditures is provided by Friends of Scouting who enroll as sustaining members and various fund raising activities.

"SINCE SCOUTING is a family program to a large degree, many parents become involved but official parental involvement is not required," says Stanley Sowerwine of the Clinton Valley Council, "but it becomes, however, more meaningful to a son's experience and helpful to the general welfare of the unit operation."

Again, since a boy's life is so short and so important, most parents are not only willing but eager

to fulfill the purpose of life for themselves and their offspring. And their talent and time is not only valuable to the success of scouting, it also provides a family example that service is essential for each adult citizen's contribution to the making of a better community and world in which to live."

Currently almost 100,000 youth in the metropolitan area are registered, and more than 25,000 adults. All races and religions are represented. And all packs, troops and posts are sponsored and operated by various churches or synagogues, schools, civic organizations, block clubs, labor or industrial organizations.

Scouts in this area are served by two councils. Detroit Area Council (phone 897-1965) covers Wayne County, Macomb County south of Fourteen Mile, including Fraser, Royal Oak, Troy, Bloomfield Township and Southfield in Oakland County.

Clinton Valley Council (phone 682-7407) serves the rest of Oakland and Macomb counties.

Each of their Scout Service Centers will assist in identifying nearby Scout units for youth to join and will also take inquiries on the formation of new units.

