

# DAD'S HANDBOOK

2007 / 2008



Katori Nation

Father/Child Program

Welcome to the Katori Nation

The Katori Nation is a Father/Child program that serves families living in and near the Katy Independent School District. Our primary purpose of the program is:

**TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING AND COMPANIONSHIP BETWEEN FATHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN.**

The Katori Nation program is unique in many ways. By design, it promotes a one on one relationship between Dads and their children. Unlike youth sports or scouting where the coach or scoutmaster is the leader or role model, each Dad fills that role for his child in this program. You make the smiles and you make the memories.

This handbook is created to help you become familiar with the Katori Nation Father/Child Program. In addition to the Aims, Pledges, and Purposes of the program, this booklet will give you the outline and some guidelines for the regular tribe meetings. These regular tribe meetings are of the utmost importance and the success of each tribe depends on these meetings taking place at least monthly and being quality time spent between Father and child.

**You and the other Dads in your tribe are responsible for the success of your tribe.**

The Katori Nation will provide you with many opportunities to make smiles and memories as well as provide direction and counseling as needed to make your time in the program a success. Ultimately, though, each and every Dad should make his Tribe's success a personal goal.

Lastly, please note that **NO ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED AT ANY KATORI NATION EVENT!!!** Anyone who violates this policy is subject to suspension from the program.

Please enjoy your experience in the Katori Nation and remember the memories you create with your child last a lifetime.

Ya Ta Hey

Katori Nation Officers

# **THE KATORI NATION FATHER/CHILD PROGRAM**

## **PURPOSE**

To foster understanding and companionship between father & son/daughter.

## **SLOGAN**

“Friends Forever”

The slogan, “Friends Forever” does not mean father and child should relate to each other as equals, such as two children who are friends. Rather, it means father and child have a close, enduring relationship in which there is communication, understanding, and companionship.

## **AIMS**

1. To be clean in body and pure in heart.
2. To be “Friends Forever” with my father / son / daughter.
3. To love the sacred circle of my family.
4. To be attentive while others speak.
5. To love my neighbor as myself.
6. To seek and preserve the beauty of the Great Creator’s work in forest, field and stream.

## **PLEDGE**

We, Father and Son / Daughter, through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this tribe, and to our community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Creator.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KATORI NATION FATHER/CHILD PROGRAM TO DADS

The Katori Nation Father/Child Program is as much a dad's program as it is a child's program. When you and your child get together with other dads and their children, some important things happen:

1. You will have fun, and your child will have fun. One of the objectives of the Program is to provide as many opportunities as possible for dads and their children to participate in activities together. Everything that is planned is done with the following question in mind: "Is this an activity that fathers and children can do and enjoy together?"
2. When your child sees you interacting with other dads, you are providing your child a role model. This is a great opportunity to show your child how you would like them to act with other people.
3. When you see the way other children act, you are likely to become more patient with your own child. It is easier to relax and enjoy your child's youthfulness when you know your child acts just like the other children his or her own age.
4. Your child begins to learn lessons of give and take with people outside your home – lessons about being responsible – with you and the other dads to show the way.
5. You can describe and demonstrate to your child some other things you enjoyed doing when you were young.
6. When all members of your family eventually get involved, even with the other families – you recapture some of the old-time neighborliness that gives kids the feeling of a friendly world. Lifelong family friendships can develop.
7. You are providing you and your child with an opportunity to develop great friendships.

If all of the above reasons are not enough, this program gives fathers an important and special opportunity to develop and enjoy volunteer leadership skills. This program has opportunities for your child to share the spotlight of leadership within your tribe and the Nation.

# THE KATORI NATION ORGANIZATION

The Katori Nation is a Father/Child Program that had recently been associated with the Katy YMCA. The Katori Nation was formerly a part of the Songan Nation, which is associated with the Westside Family YMCA. The Songan Nation was formed in 1985 by fathers interested in developing a program in West Houston similar to the program they enjoyed as children. The Songan Nation grew from 110 members in 1985 to over 1300 members in the 1996. In the fall of 1996, 450 members split from the Songan Nation and formed the Katori Nation. Since then, the Katori Nation has grown to over 1000 members. The Songan Nation and Katori Nation continue to be united as a federation.

To help you understand our structure, here are a few definitions:

A **FEDERATION** is a grouping of two or more Nations.

A **NATION** is a group of 10 or more tribes.

A **TRIBE** is the basic unit of the program. It consists of 4 to 14 dads and their children. Tribes are usually organized first by gender and age of the children, and then by geographic area.

The Katori Nation is led by the following Nation Officers:

The **NATION CHIEF** is the leader of the Nation. He (or his designated alternate) presides over all Nation meetings, including the monthly Longhouse meeting and the Campout council fires.

The **PRINCESS & GUIDE CHIEF** are the leaders of their respective gender groups. They provide guidance and help communicate with the Princess and Guides tribes.

The **MEDICINE MAN** is the spiritual leader of the Nation. He calls the "Great Creator" to our ceremonies.

The **ASSISTANT CHIEF** leads the Nations recruiting efforts and helps organize the new tribes. He also assists the Nation Chief when needed.

The **WAR CHIEFS** coordinate campouts for the Nation.

The **OUTFITTER** coordinates the shirt and vest orders as well as patches for the Nation activities.

The **SACHEM** is the retired Nation Chief who provides continuity and experience to the current Nation Officers when needed. He also helps resolve problems that tribes may have with the Nation.

The **SCOUT** maintains the Katori Nation website and on-line payments.

The **TALLYKEEPER** maintains the Nation's membership roster and oversees the Honor Tribe point system.

The **RAINMAKER** is responsible for the Katori Nation's finances.

The following means of communication have been set up to provide information about upcoming events and deadlines to the tribes and their members:

**LONGHOUSE MEETING:** this is the monthly meeting for the tribe chiefs (or designee) and Nation officers. It is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at Camp Cinco  
**ALL TRIBE CHIEFS OR DESIGNEE ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND**

**KATORI NATION WEBSITE:** this is the main communication channel between the Katori Nation and the tribes. Go to [www.katorination.com](http://www.katorination.com) for calendars, campouts, payments, and updates. Anything affecting the membership is posted on the Website.

**TRIBE E-MAIL:** each tribe should have a phone and e-mail list to distribute information between the tribe members. This is critical for a successful tribe and Program experience.

If any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact any officer of the Katori Nation for assistance.

<p><b>“YA-TA-HEY”</b> is a Katori Nation phrase that means, <b>“everything is good”</b> or <b>“we agree.”</b> <b>“WA-KO-TAH”</b> is a Katori Nation phrase that means, <b>“We are a strong nation.”</b> When the Nation chief yells out <b>“Wa-Ko-Tah”</b> at a council fire, your response is <b>“Ya-Ta-Hey”</b></p>
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# ORGANIZING A NEW TRIBE

Your first job is to attend the initial Dad's Meeting to introduce yourselves to the other Dads in your tribe, and to get your tribe organized. A list of things that should be accomplished at the initial Dad's Meeting follows:

1. **Choose a tribe name:** Each new tribe will choose a name for their tribe. In order to avoid any confusion, every tribe name in the Katori Nation must be unique.
2. **Order T-Shirts and Vests:** The tribe should select a color shirt. Since the shirt and vest order form is on the website and handled by Paypal, each tribe member must pay individually. As a result, the tribe needs to coordinate to make sure all orders are placed so shirts and vests are available for the Induction Ceremony.
3. **Determine the tribe meeting schedule:** The Nation recommends that tribes meet once a month. Most tribes meet during the second or third week of the month so that information from the Longhouse meeting can be distributed to the members. Each family in the tribe should take a turn hosting and planning the monthly tribe meeting. If the monthly tribe meeting is held on a school night, it should conclude by 8:00pm.
4. **Elect the Tribe officers:** There are two positions that need to be filled for each tribe, Tribe chief and Assistant Tribe Chief. The responsibilities of the Tribe Chief include attending the Nation Longhouse meetings and presiding over the tribe meetings. The responsibilities of the Assistant Tribe Chief include assisting the Tribe Chief and coordinating Tribe activities.
5. **Develop the Tribe Roster:** The roster is critical for a tribe's success. It should include the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for each Dad. It should also include the nicknames for the Dad and child. Lastly, a copy of the roster data should be give to the Tallykeeper to ensure all records are current.

There will be several of the Nation Officers available to help answer any questions.

# OUTLINE OF A TRIBE MEETING

**This outline should be followed throughout your years in the program. It assumes the meeting is held on a weeknight at one of the member's homes. Please remember, young children like repetition and consistency. The meetings may become boring for the Dads, but they were designed for the children. As your group develops and moves on in years, the meetings can be held at alternative locations with varying activities, but the following elements should be included in all monthly tribe meetings.**

## **7:00PM – Opening Ritual**

The dad hosting the meeting is known as the firekeeper. The firekeeper's child begins the meeting by hitting the tribe drum once for each child present. All talking stops and the children sit with or in front of their Dad. After the drumbeater finishes....

**TRIBE: Ya-Ta-Hey!**

Chief: Let us give thanks to the Great Creator for this opportunity to be with our dads, Our sons / daughters, and our friends.

**TRIBE: Ya-Ta-Hey!**

Chief: Can you tell me the Purpose of the Katori Nation Program?

**TRIBE: To foster understanding and companionship between father & son/daughter**

Chief: Ya-Ta-Hey! Now can you tell me the Slogan of the Katori Nation Program?

**TRIBE: Friends Forever**

Chief: Ya-Ta-Hey! Can you tell me the Aims of the Katori Nation Program?

**TRIBE: To be clean in body and pure in heart.**

**To be Friends Forever with my Father (dad says son / daughter).**

**To love the sacred circle of my family.**

**To be attentive while others speak.**

**To love my neighbor as myself.**

**To seek and preserve the beauty of the Great Creators work, in forest, field, And stream.**

Chief: Ya-Ta-Hey! Now Let us recite the Pledge of the Katori Nation.

**TRIBE: We, father and (son / daughter) through friendly service to each other, to our family, to this tribe, and to our community, seek a world pleasing to the eye of the Great Creator.**

Chief: Ya-Ta-Hey!

## **7:05PM – Chief's Talk**

The chief may use this time to talk about items of importance to the tribe, such as upcoming events. This time should also be used to teach the children something about their tribe, the Nation or talk about the Slogan, Pledge, Aims, and Purpose of the Katori Nation Program. Keep it simple and short.

### **7:10PM – Tribal Business**

The firekeeper collects the Wampum (tribal dues) earned for doing good things since the last meeting. Starting with the Firekeeper's child, they stand up and describe how they earned their wampum and then place it in the tribal wampum pouch. As each child completes their description, the Dad's can respond with a Ya-Ta-Hey for a job well done.

NOTE: Each child states their nickname and their good deed. It can be as simple as helped Mommy or did something nice for a brother or sister. The Wampum should remain a symbolic (25 cents). It is not designed to finance and tribal activities.

### **7:15PM – Firekeepers Talk**

The firekeeper should plan to tell a story, lead a song, introduce a game or present the tribe with a moral.

### **7:20PM – Tribal Craft or Activity**

This time is spent working with your child on personal or tribal property or projects. This activity should be carefully organized and agreed to at the Dad's meetings. This is not to be leather crafts only and certainly not a time for Dad's to hold a meeting or ignore the children. Moms should not be running this or any part of your meetings. Do things that you and your child will like doing. Playing games can be fun, too.

### **7:45PM Refreshments**

The firekeeper and his child will offer the tribe refreshments. These should be kept simple and limited to snack items.

### **7:55PM – Closing Ceremony**

All of tribe members stand in a circle, fathers behind their children. Following the lead of the Chief, all tribe members recite the following using the indicated sign language.

TRIBE:	<b>And now</b>	(point finger to the ground)
	<b>may the Great Creator</b>	(circle finger upward, imitating smoke)
	<b>of all Creation</b>	(outstretch arms, above shoulders)
	<b>be with you</b>	(point across the circle to friends)
	<b>and you, and you...</b>	(point across the circle to other friends)
	<b>now</b>	(point fingers down to the ground)
	<b>and forever more.</b>	(pretend to shoot an arrow into the air)

At the close of the ceremony, each father and child must silently leave the Firekeeper's house.  
Only once outside, may the tribe members end the code of silence.  
Hope it was FUN!!!

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR TRIBE MEETINGS:

1. Start meetings on time and end on time.
2. Make the activities so that dad and child interact.
3. Make sure the shy as well as outgoing participate.
4. Dads don't talk business at the meetings. Send e-mails or call each other before hand.
5. Do not have your wife prepare for the meeting. Dads should do it with their kids.
6. Have dads change the titles around for their children's sake. This can be done yearly
7. Be more concerned with the feeling and attitudes of the tribal members than with the accuracy of the tribal ceremony. The key is to be flexible, warm, supportive and understanding to each other. This is a fun activity, not work or a competition. Help each other make this a fun experience.
8. Invitations should be prepared and delivered two or three days in advance of each meeting. Let the child help prepare the invitations. Hand delivering them with your child can be fun.
9. Chiefs should demand complete silence during the meetings, and each dad or child use the Buffalo sign for permission to speak. Tribes can use the talking feather to allow only the one holding the feather permission to speak.
10. Tribal meetings can be held once or twice a month. This does not include Nation events. Also the most successful tribes are the ones that hold regular dad's meetings.
11. A tribe should have at least a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 families. If you need more members, ask the Nation or invite some friends to join. Large tribes should be split if they become too large to maintain or manage.
12. The tribe should try to maintain all children of the same age / grade level. This will ensure no problems with the tribe being able to participate in Campout activities as well as ensure a quality experience with dad and child.
13. If your tribe becomes bored with the program, look to yourselves first. Plan to do things that would be fun for your dads as well as the children. It's usually the dads that lose interest first because they are not challenged or feel part of the program. Most dads that quit just sit around at meetings, let their wives do the planning for meetings and trips, plus just show up at camp-outs really wishing they were at home or at work. Try to help these dads stay connected. Encourage them by sharing and asking for their ideas.