#### Where did Poconut the Chipmunk come from?

Vote for 1 story in each category (child & adult). Email the letter & number to <u>contests@sawcreek.org</u>, no later than Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The winners will be announced the week of April 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Child Category:**

#### C1 Poconut

Once in the prettiest tree, lived a family of chipmunks. The youngest chipmunks name was Poconut. He was a regular size of a chipmunk, He had brown eyes and his fur was brushed one hour a day. Also he was 3 years old. He has a huge family his favorite is acorn his sister.

One day Poconut was walking down the hall in the tree when he heard whispers. He peeked through the door and it was ... was ... his parents! But he stood there listening to the news from his parents. Ahhh out of nowhere he got pulled back when his parents were starting to talk! Few it was just Acorn. Are you out of your mind spying on momand dad is not very nice. I wasn't. I was just uhumoh yeah just looking for you sis. That sounds very very very fishy.

Then Poconut went to bed but he couldn't stop thinking about what his parents were talking about. Was it about a house, a vacation or a town meeting? This was very important. The Next day everyone was in their rooms packing, then Poconut went into his parents room and stood for about five minutes. Then Poconut said Mom why is everyone packing? Well, we're going on a little trip to Pennsylvania if that's fine with you. Then everyone stared at Poconut waiting for the answer. Sure! replied Poconut.

When they were all packed they went to the chiport and put their bags on the x-ray then when on the plane. Poconut stared at the ground as they were flying in the plane. There was nuts you could buy. Poconut felt like this plane where they were going was magic. Later on the plane there was a gigundo plane next to the window! It was a human plane. Poconuts' plane had to lower down so the humans wouldn't see their plane.

Soon they finally landed, put their luggage on the x-ray one more time and went to their vacation tree. When they got to the tree they slept for one hour. After that they did lots of stuff for example... swimming, collecting nuts, and so much more! A couple days later Poconut and Acorn made a little home for themselves in Pennsylvania. Poconut and Acorn liked the place so much they did all the stuff they could never do in california like, go swimming where actually it's safe. When their parents found out about how much they like it there they started talking about never going back to the old house.

The last day Poconut and his sister were there they begged and begged 1 more day. But then the parents said why one day when we were doing forever? Poconut and Acorn gasped. Really? Yeah you like it so much you stay in your little home and we stay in our vacation tree, would that be ok? Uhh YES!

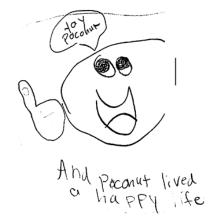
#### And Poconut lived a happy life!

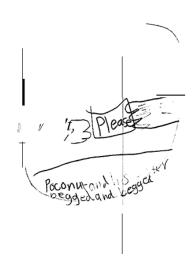
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#### **C2** Poconut Origin Story

One day, there was a chipmunk named Poconut. He lived in New Jersey in a backyard. One day Poconut overheard the family whose yard he lived in saying how great it was there and they were looking for a home to vacation in and decided to come with them to the poconos to look at houses.

Poconut came with these people wherever they went in the poconos.

Poconut wanted to live in the poconos. Then, one day when Poconut went to the poconos, he saw a sign that said "SAW CREEK ESTATES!" Poconut wanted to see what this was all about. He wanted to explore this "saw creek place." "Wow this place is awesome, Saw creek is the best!" Poconut said as he walked around. Poconut NEVER EVER wanted to go back to New jersey. He loved Saw Creek so much that... HE DECIDED TO LIVE THERE FOREVER! His family wanted to be there too! They bought a nice house there to enjoy. Poconut made two friends here, a fish and a turtle. Poconut was walking down the park and saw a sign saying HIRING... SAW CREEK MASCOTS! Poconut wanted to join in this event. He decided to go to the office and... HE WON! POCONUT WAS NOW THE SAW CREEK MASCOT!!! Poconut was very, very, happy. "Well I'm the happiest chipmunk anybody has ever seen. "Not the best fish huh?" Said Poconut's fish friend. Poconut lived there happily ever after! The End! —

#### C3 Pocono Story

Once upon a time, in the heart of the enchanted forest, nesting in the towering oak trees and pouring streams, there lived a curious little creature, Poconut the Chipmunk! Legend has it that he was born from a magical fusion of a coconut and pinecone and was born as the result of an experiment of the wizard of the enchanted forest, Mr. Merlin the Magnificent. But the forest had a silly, evil creature named Dr. Mysterious Minyak, who always tried to destroy the enchanted forest and create it an evil place. Poconut's family always tried to protect him but one day... Poconut was hunting for food to eat and Dr. Mysterious Minyak captured him!

"Why, Minyak, why me? What have I done? I have been only but a good creature to my forest!", yelped Poconut the Chipmunk. "Because nobody should spread this much kindness around. I am the evil layer of this enchanted forest!", replied Dr. Mysterious Minyak.

Little did Minyak know that kindness goes a long way. Poconut the Chipmunk was nothing but kind to all his fellow enchanted creatures. Everyone in the forest found out about Poconut being captured and started to make a plan to free Poconut. Aaron, one of Poconut's friends, decided to fool Minyak with food, so he would come out of his deep and dark cave. Minyak was a coyote, who feasted on anything he could find. So, Aaron and a few other friends got to work with this plan, and it worked! "AH! I've been fooled!!!", screamed Minyak.

"Huzzah!!" screamed Aaron and his friends, "we saved Poconut!" And from that day... Poconut was free again. From here on, Poconut's life changed for the better!

A few years later, he was king of the enchanted forest. "I am going to move to a place where only kindness can be spread and evil will not exist!", said Poconut, with dedication. And so, Poconut hopped down to Saw Creek, a wonderful community where humans have now stepped over to create a kind place. Poconut still lives high up in a tree somewhere in Saw Creek, and waits to be the hero of any evil thing that happens. He has done his job. "I wouldn't be able to do it without my best friend, Aaron.", said Poconut. "Well, you're my best friend. I'd do anything for you", replied Aaron.

Poconut and Aaron are neighbors up in a tall tree somewhere in Saw Creek, where they look back to the events they went through before arriving in the community. "Kindness goes a long way, and it always finds a way back to you. I was lucky to get away from Dr. Mysterious Minyak, and my scary history has made me who I am today before arriving in Saw Creek. I wouldn't have done it without you. Thank you, my fellow friend, Aaron.", exclaimed Poconut the Chipmunk.

#### **Adult Category:**

#### **A1** Poconuts Beginning

Once upon a time in the vibrant, bustling forest of Manhattanwood, there lived a chipmunk named Poconut. His fur as brown as the rich earth, and eyes as bright as the morning dew, Poconut was not your average chipmunk. He carried an air of adventure and the courage of a lion within his tiny heart. Poconut's past was as fascinating as his spirit. Legend had it that he was born during a fierce storm when thunder shook the trees, and lightning illuminated the sky. His parents, diligent and gritty, had worked hard to stockpile enough acorns to last them several seasons. But the storm raged on, and a lightning strike set their home aflame. Without hesitation, they gathered their babies, Poconut and his siblings, fleeing into the stormy night. They journeyed far and wide searching for shelter, until they found the perfect spot under an old oak tree in Brooklyn. That was where Poconut grew up, learning the ways of the Parks from his parents and the Oasis they had created from their determination. As the seasons turned and leaves changed from green to gold, so did Poconut's thirst for adventure. He would listen intently to the birds who spoke of distant lands and dream of what lay beyond the horizon. His heart yearned for new sights and the thrill of discovery. He was meant for more than just gathering acorns. One crisp autumn morning, Poconut kissed his family goodbye and set off in search of a grand adventure. He traveled through dense Parks, over passing cars, and climbed the highest hills. His journey was fraught with challenges - he dodged hungry hawks, outsmarted sly foxes, and navigated his way through unknown lands. Days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into months. Poconut's journey had taken him farther than any chipmunk from Manhattanwood had ever gone. It was during a snowy winter's night when Poconut, now weary and longing for a place to call home, stumbled upon a small creek that glistened under the moonlight. He had arrived at Saw Creek Estates in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. The creek's gentle murmur was welcoming, and the tall trees seemed to offer their protection. It didn't take long for Poconut to realize that this was where he would build his new home. He found a cozy nook beneath a hawthorn bush, near the creek where the water was fresh and food was abundant. But something was different about Poconut now; his adventure had changed him. His eyes sparkled with wisdom, his body moved with confidence, and his heart was filled with tales of courage. The chipmunks of Saw Creek Estates quickly grew fond of Poconut, who would regale them with stories of his past and the many wonders he had seen. As Poconut settled into his new home, he couldn't help but think about what his parents had taught him about perseverance and hope. He realized that his greatest adventure wasn't the journey to Saw Creek Estates but the journey within himself. Poconut had discovered that true courage

comes from embracing the unknown and that with a brave heart, any place, even far from Manhattanwood, could become home.

## A2 Hollywood Star to Saw Creek Estates Mascot: The Journey of Poconut the Chipmunk

In the bustling city of Hollywood, amidst the razzle-dazzle and lights, nestled beneath the shade of a majestic oak tree, lived an extraordinary chipmunk family known as the Nutley's. Mr. and Mrs. Nutley were wise and caring parents to their seven adorable children. Among the siblings, the youngest was a chipmunk named Poconut, a playful and curious chipmunk adored by all for his boisterous spirit and infectious laughter. The Nutley family was beloved by fans worldwide for their talented acting skills and charming personalities. They had appeared in numerous films and television shows. Despite their success, the Nutley's felt that they were yearning for something more meaningful in their lives.

One day, Mr. Nutley announced his decision to move to a peaceful and serene place far away from the chaos of Hollywood. The family was surprised at first, but they all agreed that a change of scenery might be just what they needed.

And so, the Nutley family packed up and embarked on a cross-country journey which led them to a tranquil town of Bushkill in the Poconos, where they came across a cozy burrow in the idyllic Saw Creek Estates Community.

As they arrived in Saw Creek Estates, the Nutley family was greeted by the lush greenery, bubbling creeks, and peaceful surroundings of the Poconos. The air was filled with the sweet scent of pine trees, and the sound of birds chirping floated through the trees. Poconut's eyes widened in wonder as he took in the sights and smells of the forest, feeling a sense of peace wash over him.

The Nutley's quickly settled into their new home, each one finding their own special spot in the burrow. Poconut wasted no time in exploring the vast wilderness around him, darting through the trees, and scampering over moss-covered rocks. His playful nature soon caught the attention of the other forest creatures.

It wasn't long before Poconut became a cherished mascot of Saw Creek Estates. The local animals admired his boundless energy and unwavering enthusiasm for life, and they often joined him in his adventures through the woods. Poconut's charisma and charm brought the community together, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among the residents of Saw Creek Estates.

Chipper, the eldest sibling, worked scouting for acorns, Nutmeg loved organizing family gatherings, and Acorn was the family chef, whipping up delicious meals for everyone. Chestnut and Squirrelly were the mischief-makers, always finding new ways to play and have fun, while Twinkle had a talent for storytelling and brought joy to the family with her sparkling personality.

As the seasons passed in Saw Creek Estates, the Nutley family thrived in their new home, thanks in no small part to Poconut's spirit of adventure and togetherness. The chipmunk family had found a place where they truly belonged, where the beauty of nature and the bonds of family created a sense of peace and happiness that would last a lifetime. And at the heart of it all was Poconut, the little chipmunk with a big heart, who had become a symbol of joy and harmony in Saw Creek Estates.

#### A3 Naming Poconuts

It was a dark and stormy night. A lightning bolt hit a stone wall and a little chipmunk was blasted into the air. He landed on a moving van. When the little guy woke up, the van was moving very fast and kept passing signs that said 80 West.

The moving van stopped quickly and the little chipmunk slid off the truck and hit a sign that said 209. But he landed on something very soft!

The little chipmunk had landed on a boy deer. "Hi! My name is Buck. What's yours?" "I don't have a name yet...Chipmunk naming day is not until April."

Buck told him he was on his way to a big waterfalls where all deer are safe and asked the chipmunk to ride on his back for a while. As they traveled, the chipmunk told Buck he was going to pick the name 'Big City Sam'. But now, in this beautiful woodland area, he needed to come up with a new idea for his name.

As they traveled, they came to a fork in the stream. The chipmunk looked both ways and told Buck he would say good-bye and go up the beautiful, majestically flowing smaller stream.

The next day, the little chipmunk looked to his left and saw a beautiful pond with a big fountain and children throwing a ball up in the air into a hoop and old people hitting a little green ball and saying bad words when they missed it, while others were swimming in a pool. The little chipmunk thought "What a beautiful place to live." All at once he heard many voices saying "Welcome to Saw Creek in the Pocono Mountains. Are you looking for a home?"

The little chipmunk almost jumped out of his skin. He quickly turned around and there was a whole group of critters standing there.

Henry the Hawk told him about all the amenities at Saw Creek. Freda the Frog explained all the special events that take place in the community. Archibald the Eagle said, "The skies are so clear and blue all year round. Oh, by the way, your friend Buck said Hi. He made it to the big waterfalls." Chanel the Skunk stated that there's no fresher air than in Saw Creek. Earl the Squirrel told him of the great food. "You can eat anything you want except for the couple of nuts who don't know what 25 mph means." Gus the Groundhog said, "We get celebrity shows at the Top, like Chip and Dale, Woody the Woodpecker, Bambi and Pumba the Warthog." Robin the Robin added, "Yogi the bear used to come, but the humans got too close trying to take selfies, so he ate them."

The little chipmunk froze in his tracks when he saw the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. "Hi! My name is Penny," the little girl chipmunk said. "Will you be staying and what's your name, Big Boy?"

The little chipmunk started to tremble. He had found friends, a home, a community. With tears of joy in his eyes, he proclaimed, "Yes. Yes. Saw Creek is my home and my name is POCONUTS."

#### A4 THE STORY OF POCONUT - THE SAW CREEK MASCOT

In the heart of a bustling city park, surrounded by towering skyscrapers and incessant traffic, there once lived a chipmunk named Poconut. His two most favorite things found during dumpster-diving escapades were pecans and donuts. He was not your ordinary

chipmunk. Unlike his urban-dwelling homies, Poconut had dreams beyond the concrete jungle. He would spend his days scampering up trees that barely saw the sun, staring wistfully at the tiny patch of sky above. While his friends were content racing across power lines and playing hide-and-seek behind hotdog stands. Poconut dreamt of a greener life. One fateful day, as he was munching on a particularly stale cruller, Poconut heard a park visitor talking about the Pocono Mountains. "Mountains... that's it!" he thought. A place with more trees than people, more nuts than wrappers, and definitely more space than the little patch of green he called home. Thus began Poconut's grand adventure. He hitched rides in the undercarriages of cars, narrowly escaping becoming roadkill more than once. He braved suburban backyards with overzealous dogs and trekked across fields that seemed to stretch into infinity. Finally, after what felt like a hundred squirrel years, Poconut arrived at Saw Creek Estates in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. It was everything he had dreamed of and more. Here the trees were like skyscrapers made of wood, the air was like a constant gentle hug, and the acorns... oh, the acorns! Poconut grew a bit of a belly from his overindulgence on acorns. But life in the Poconos was not without its challenges. Poconut quickly learned that the local chipmunks had their own customs. They had never seen a chipmunk with such a strange accent—every "cheep" and "chatter" gave away his city upbringing. Poconut had to learn the ways of the mountain chipmunks. He learned that you didn't have to fight pigeons for pretzel pieces; here, the nuts were plentiful and free for the taking. He discovered the joy of basking on a warm rock, without worrying about being stepped on or scooped up by a child thinking he was a park attraction. But most importantly, Poconut learned that being different was not a bad thing. His tales of the city fascinated his new neighbors, and his unique perspective was often the solution to finding the best food sources or escape routes from the occasional hawk. He even started a fitness craze, leading aerobics classes that combined his nimble city dodging maneuvers with the graceful climbing techniques of his new friends. "Chip-Fit with Poconut" is becoming the latest rage in Saw Creek Estates. Now, as Poconut sits atop his favorite boulder, looking out over the community he has grown to love, he can't help but chuckle. Here, in the splendor of the Poconos, he has found his true place. And while he still indulges in the odd pecan or dreamily reminisces about the city's donuts, he knows he wouldn't trade his new SawCreek life for all the nuts in New York City.

#### A5 The Story of Poconut

Once upon a time, nestled in the dense forests of the Pacific northeast, there live chipmunk named Poconut. Poconut wasn't your ordinary chipmunk; he was known far and wide for his boundless energy, insatiable curiosity, and a mischievous streak that often got him into trouble.

From his earliest days, Poconut was an adventurer at heart. He would scamper through the towering Douglas firs, darting between their roots and leaping from branch to branch with fearless abandon. His parents, Willow and Birch, were constantly on edge, trying to keep up with their adventurous son. Despite their efforts, Poconut would often find himself in precarious situations.

One day, while exploring the edge of a rushing river, he slipped on a wet rock and was swept away by the current. Willow and Birch frantically searched for him, calling out his

name as the river carried him downstream. Miraculously, Poconut managed to cling to a piece of driftwood and eventually washed ashore, shaken but unharmed. As he grew older, Poconut's wanderlust only intensified. He ventured deeper into the forest, discovering hidden caves, secret meadows, and sparkling streams. Along the way, he made friends with creatures of all shapes and sizes: from the wise old owl who perched in the tallest tree to the playful otters who frolicked in the river. But despite his love for adventure, Poconut couldn't shake a lingering feeling of restlessness. He longed for something more, something beyond the familiar sights and sounds of the forest. It was then that he heard whispers of a place called Saw Creek Estates, a community nestled in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania

Intrigued by the tales he had heard, Poconut bid farewell to his forest home and embarked on a journey unlike any he had known before. Along the way, he encountered challenges and obstacles that tested his courage and determination. But with each passing day, his excitement grew, fueled by the promise of new adventures awaiting him. Finally, after weeks of travel, Poconut arrived at Saw Creek Estates. The sight that greeted him took his breath away: rolling hills, lush greenery, and a sense of warmth and belonging that he had never known.

From that moment on, Poconut knew he had found his new home. As word spread of the chipmunk with a zest for life like no other, Poconut quickly became a beloved figure in Saw Creek Estates. Children would gather to hear tales of his adventures in the forest, while adults admired his spirit of resilience and determination.

Today, Poconut continues to explore the wonders of his new home, finding joy in the simple pleasures of life and inspiring others to embrace the spirit of adventure that lies within us all. And though he may have left behind the forests of the Pacific Northwest, the memories of his past adventures will forever shape the chipmunk he has become.