

River Run

May 2018 Vol. 12



Young River People's Council Newsletter



Shawl Ceremony



YRPC Hosts Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Event

On May 19th a member of the youth council, Polo Espinoza, organized an event to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). During the event several individuals volunteered to share their poetry related to the topic. In between poetry readings various people shared information on other events relating to MMIW and how to get help. There was also a coloring contest for the children and a shawl ceremony lead by Vurlene Notsinneh-Bowekaty to remember those who were/are victims. Some participants also shared some personal stories of loved ones. Raffles were given to the poets and lunch was shared with all. Thank you to the donation committee who helped with the raffles. —**Alyssa Andrews**

The National UNITY Executive Committee came to visit Salt River and the Young River People's Council. They are a group of native youth/young adults from across the country that represent the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY). President Ray gave a welcome and talked about the history of our Community. While they were here we had dinner made by a local caterer, some ice-breakers to get to know them better and shared our ideas on what we are doing to help our Community. The Executive Committee shared why they ran for their position and how it has changed their lives for the better. After that we had a cultural exchange in which we taught the women how to play toka and the men how to play songivul. Overall it was a great experience and I'm glad our youth council got to spend some time with them. We will see them again at the National UNITY Conference in San Diego in July. —**Sommer Lopez**



President Ray, YRPC and UNITY Executive Committee



Ky-Mani and Sommer at Law Day

Kymani, Sommer, and Nalani represented our youth council during Salt River's Law Day. They participated in a round table discussion with Tribal Council and other staff on how to combat substance abuse in the community. Our youth council really focuses on educating the youth on how drugs can negatively influence your life. We were glad to help with that conversation.

- **Sommer Lopez**



**Polo reading
his poem**

Polo Espinoza, Sommer Lopez, and Nalani Lopez had the chance to attend the Community's Substance Abuse walk this past month. We had gotten blessed with sage and a prayer by Thosh Collins and Jeffery Fulwilder, we also had the breakfast. While we were there we had a booth that educated others on what our youth council has been doing to combat this issue. Such as doing whip it clean ups and hosting a prayer walk of our own. However, our battle to combat this drug addiction issue is no where close to ending. After the walk Polo gave a poem on his experience with substance abuse and how it has affected his life. We are very thankful to have been able a part of this event. - Sommer Lopez

**YRPC sharing their
substance abuse
awareness efforts**



On May 31st, YRPC hosted an ice cream social to thank Council, departments and state representatives for all their support this year. It takes a Community to raise young people to be leaders. —Christine Porter



**< Senator Mendoza
With youth**



**< Rep. Blanc with
youth**

**Ice Cream Social
attendees >**



- Upcoming YRPC Events and Activities**
- ◆ **June 13th-** YRPC Meeting at Two Waters A, third floor in whirlwind room at 5pm
 - ◆ **June 15th-** Harvesting cactus fruit in Ak-Chin (Time TBD)
 - ◆ **June 16th-** Native Youth Identity Conference.
 - ◆ **June 20th-** YRPC present Substance Abuse Awareness to campers.
 - ◆ **June 21st-** Executive Council Meeting 5pm
 - ◆ **June 22nd-** Traditional Fashion Show
 - ◆ **June 28th-** YRPC Meeting at Two Waters, whirlwind room at 5pm.

***For questions about joining the Young River People's Council please email Christine Porter at Christine.porter@srpmic-nsn.gov or call 480-362-7527.**
Facebook @Young River People's Council—YRPC

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