

River Run

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Young River People's Council Newsletter

YRPC receives "Youth Council of the Year" at National UNITY Conference

During UNITY I attended the business meetings with Nalani. We gave a report on all the activities we did over the past year. We were glad to hear what all the other youth council's are doing as well. We also got the chance to vote for the UNITY Co-Presidents and the Western Representative. I am happy to report that the male co-president and the western representative are from Gila River. —**Elias Fulwilder**

Prior to the conference we were nominated for youth council for the Youth Council of the Year Award. Much to our surprise our youth council won the award. The week at UNITY was very busy. We listened to speakers, participated in workshops, and socialized, we forgot about the Youth Council of the Year award. It was the highlight of our week and we are very thankful to have been able to represent Salt River in such an honorable way. **Sommer Lopez**

Singing traditional O'odham songs has never been something that I was interested in until I joined Youth Council. I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to sing along side the sister Tribes during culture night at UNITY. Our youth council is planning on learning one new song per month and now I am more eager to learn more songs and dances. —**D'Andre Pilger**



One of the biggest highlights for me was culture night. I watched youth from all over the Nation share their cultures. I watched the bear dance and the smoke dance. Our youth council worked hard to learn a new song and dance and it paid off that night. The sister tribes were the last ones to perform. It was beautiful to see the sister tribes unite in song and dance. I look forward to next year's conference in Orlando, Florida. —**Ky-Mani Harney**

During this year's conference we hosted a workshop. This year we focused on healthy eating to combat diabetes. We cut up fruits and vegetables and held a contest to see who could make the most creative critter. We showed the youth that healthy eating can be fun. —**Gabriella Fulwilder**

Before the UNITY Conference, our advisor Chris and our President, Sommer nominated our youth council for the youth council of the year award. They highlighted our top 5 events from the past year. During the banquet, we were shocked when they announced our youth council to receive the award! - **Nalani Lopez**

On July 4th YRPC joined the Ak-Chin youth council on Mission Beach. We gave an offering to the ocean to give thanks. When we gave our offerings we had to introduce ourselves to the water and tell where we came from. We sang songs on the beach together. (pictured below) - **Joclyn Lewis**

The UNITY banquet was amazing. We had reserved seating thanks to Tribal Council. We got to see all the entertainment. The food was delicious. During the banquet they announced the Youth Council of the year and to our surprise we were chosen! Sommer gave an amazing acceptance speech. —**Erica Schurz**

This was my first UNITY and I was glad I was able to attend and meet other youth that were passionate about creating change in Indian Country. I enjoyed the conference and I can't wait for next year in Florida. —**Dione Dallas**



The Gila River Youth Conference was a great experience. This was my first year attending and I learned a lot. I met other youth in the workshops that we participated in. My favorite workshops were learning to play Gins with Antonio Davis and learning about traditional foods with Ramona Farms. We ended the conference with traditional singing outside and a waila inside. I had fun while learning and I look forward to next years conference.—**D’Andre Pilger**



Learning to play Gins >

< YRPC at Gila River Conference



Selina, Sommer and Erica with the campers

Presenting to the campers opened my eyes and made me want to make changes in our Community. We have too many deaths related to substance abuse. I hope the campers take our advise to stay away from drugs and become involved with sports, clubs, playing with friends and spending time with family.—**Selina Schurz**

YRPC will be out in the Community and surrounding area to get people registered to vote. We had the opportunity to set up in the Community this month. Getting people registered was not hard but it was not easy either because they were already registered or unable to vote. I still thought it was fun and I’m glad we are able to let people know they have a voice by voting.—**Christina Schurz**



YRPC helping People get Registered to Vote



YRPC helped the

Boys and Girls Club



YRPC recruited at

The Back to School Bash



with Back to School Shopping

Upcoming YRPC Events and Activities

- ◆ August 9th– Executive Meeting at 5pm at Two Waters
- ◆ August 15, 22, 29– PSA meeting with Monte Yazzie at 4:30pm at Two Waters
- ◆ August 16th– YRPC Meeting at 5pm at Two Waters
- ◆ August 21st– Traditional Fashion Show Committee conference call at 4:30pm
- ◆ August 23rd– Executive Meeting at 5pm at Two Waters
- ◆ August 28th– Out of State College tour committee conference call at 4:30pm.
- ◆ August 30th– YRPC Meeting at 5pm at Two Waters

*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.

  @Young River People’s Council—YRPC